MEDICAL MEN OF MEEKER COUNTY

TO 1900

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OF

MEEKER COUNTY

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Compiled by

HAROLD E. WILMOT, M. D.

Foreword

This is a cooperative effort to give to the Minnesota State Medical Association the best information we have available concerning the medical care and the doctors of Meeker County from the inception of the county until the year of 1900.

We are indebted to the following:

1. **A Random Historical Sketch of Meeker County, Minnesota,** by A. C. Smith, President of the Bar and Old Settlers Association of said county. Published by Belfoy and Joubert of Litchfield, Minnesota, in 1877; Prepared as an observance of our one hundredth year of independence on the advice of our beloved President, U. S. Grant, and ordered by Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State.

2. **The Album of History and Biography of Meeker County, Minnesota:** Published by Alden Ogle and Company, Chicago, 1888.

3. **Municipal Progress, 1899.**

4. **Those Were the Days.** Published by O. E. Linquist of the **Dassel Dispatch** in 1941.

5. **Condensed History of Meeker County, 1855-1939.** Compiled and published by Frank B. Lamson, Litchfield, and the Brown Printing Company, Litchfield.

We are further indebted to the publishers and owners of the **Litchfield Independent** ("Free and Unshackled"), **The Litchfield Review, The Litchfield News Ledger, The Ledger,** and the **Meeker County News.** There are clippings from other Meeker County papers to which we are also indebted. Most of the quotations will be found in these earlier publications.

6. **The Minnesota Historical Society** and the **A.M.A.** have as usual contributed their share.

Perhaps the most valuable personal contributions have been made by Dr. K. A. Danielson, members of the Meeker County Old Settlers' Association, and various friends throughout the county who have searched their memories and their family archives to aid in the accuracy of our records.

Naturally our chairman, Dr. Robert Rosenthal, with his enthusiasm and ready access to medical records, has been of inestimable help in this effort.

May we dedicate this to the memory of the Meeker County pioneer physicians.

HAROLD E. WILMOT, M. D.

One hundred years ago the first permanent white settlers arrived in our county. The early history of Minnesota includes Meeker County as part of the Wisconsin Territory. This comprised an indefinite mass of land which was west of the Mississippi, south of the 49th parallel and on westward to the Missouri. Captain Zebulon Pike had assisted in the permanent arrangements for Fort Snelling, and the settlement of Pig's Eye was now overflowing to the steeper banks of the Mississippi on the north and west; to be known in the future as St. Paul. St. Anthony (Minneapolis) was a growing community, and the Indians were steadily being pushed westward.

The area for some sixty miles due west was known as the Big Woods, and to traverse it was an undertaking fraught with perils to quail most of the adventurous spirits of that time. However, the economic pressures in the eastern United States, plus the glowing accounts to induce immigration from Europe, plus the curative benefits of the climate, and the desire to "get rich quick," did produce the characters to become the original settlers of Meeker County.

Meeker County, due in large part to its geographic location, has always occupied a unique niche in the history of Minnesota and the Northwest.

One of its first settlers was a doctor who won the dubious distinction of being the first white man to die within its boundaries and probably the first physician to die within the State of Minnesota.

One of our pioneer physicians was elected president of M. M.A. in 1911 as one of the earlier "rural" presidents.

The "Acton Massacre" which shed the first blood in the Indian uprising in 1862 occurred in our county.

In later years the colossal Land O'Lakes started with the Litchfield Creamery as its Number One unit under the guilding hand of John Brandt, one of our native sons.

Meeker County was chosen as the first political unit to be organized for bovine tuberculosis testing, to eradicate the spread of tuberculosis to humans from this source. This was number one in the United States. Again our county was chosen as the first unit to conduct a free Mantoux test for all inhabitants. This again was number one in the United States. Apparently some of these things came about because our county can be roughly located as being one-third the distance from the southern boundary of the state in a northerly direction and one-third the distance from the eastern boundary westward. This gives it a central and rather cross-sectional location for an average Minnesota county.

The county is thirty miles from north to south and twenty-four miles from east to west. It includes seventeen and one-half congressional townships. It is roughly 1200 feet above sea level and consists of sandy loam of remarkable fertility. The eastern, western, northern, and southern portions are wooded and rolling with smaller hills, but the central portion is a flat sandy area, the first indication west of the Mississippi of the great prairies to follow if one journeys westward.

At present diversified farming is basically the economy; but in the early years fuel wood, railroad ties, and wheat were paramount in supporting its people.

Meeker County was created by the seventh Territorial Legislature of Minnesota, February 23, 1856. Some changes were later made in its boundary by annexing land from Renville County and relinquishing land to Kandiyohi County, but since 1869 the boundaries have become permanent.

At present the population is some twenty thousand people with Litchfield the county seat and centrally located. Our name derives from the Honorable B. B. Meeker, a judge of the district courts in Minneapolis.

In the words of Hon. A. C. Smith: "Why or wherefore is unknown, unless indeed, the Italien (sic) climate of the "Big Prairie," the richness of her soil, and the beauty of the surroundings were found typified in the geniality of the judge's temperament and the quiet good natured rotundity of his person."

According to the historians, Meeker County was probably not penetrated by Verendrye, Hennepin, Radisson and others; though doubtless the products of this area were seen and appreciated by the courts of France. On government maps accompanying the official report of J. N. Nicollet and J. C. Fremont in their surveys of the hydrographical basin of the Mississippi in 1842, we find Meeker County to have been a part of the reservation for different sub-Indian bands. This was termed M-de-wa-kan-ton country. Nicollet recognized it as possessing the most beautiful lakes in Minnesota, and hence the name Kandiyohi was given to our western neighbor county, which is the Indian term for beautiful lakes, and originally included our area. Early French maps alluded to this area as the "Coteau du greene Bois," a plateau heavily wooded and the height of land between the Minnesota and Mississippi drainage basins.

Access would only have been by canoe through the ramifications of the Crow River. This mild-flowing stream

divides into two branches, the north and the south, just east of our boundaries; and the north branch originates in Stearns County to our northwest, while the south branch starts in Kandiyohi County to our west. Beaver and other fur-bearing animals were very prevalent in this area in the early days, and the Sioux understandingly were exceedingly reluctant to relinquish these hunting grounds to the "pale faces."

From St. Paul on westward the "Big Woods," as it was called, extended all the way to Meeker County. This was a huge hardwood forest, broken only intermittently by meadows and channels of small streams. However, at Meeker County the terrain changed and prairies took over in the central and western portions of our boundaries. This had much effect on the early colonization, for all one had to do was turn over the soil and plant. Eastern reaches however required much grubbing and land clearing before a crop could be raised. This wood was essential to build cabins and still can be found on eminences throughout the county.

Apparently the first permanent settlers arrived in September of 1855. Interestingly enough, they came in search of pine woods to aid in supplying lumber for the rapidly expanding needs of our young country. John W. Huy and Ben Brown poled a canoe up the Crow (Hasson) River as far as the present site of Forest City, which was later to become the county seat. They erected a cabin, staked claims and a town site, and remained. The first farming operation was performed by Benjamin Dorman when he "broke sod" and planted in 1856 on his farm east of Forest City.

In the autumn of the same year DR. FREDERICK NOAH RIPLEY arrived overland from Shakopee via Glencoe in company with John McClelland and established a temporary camp at Cedar Lake (Red Cedar Island Lake in Indian lore). They filed claims here and expected to remain, contingent upon the arrival of supplies by wagon in the early spring.

Previous to their arrival in Meeker County, the doctor had resided in Shakopee at the "Warren House" from September, 1853. He had been educated in New York City and had left his mother and fiancee there when he started his pioneer trip. In 1855 he had so favorably impressed the territorial authorities in St. Paul with his "refined and gentlemanly appearance" that he was notified, pursuant to his filing a claim in Meeker County that year, that he would be appointed a county commissioner in the newly organized county of Meeker. He was a "regular" doctor and antici-

pated practicing medicine in the usual manner in the growing community of Meeker County and expected to be married as soon as he could establish his house. His fiancee later became a school teacher in Glencoe.

On March 1, 1856, he and McClelland undertook a journey to the home of John Huy and Ben Brown. This, of course, was on foot and would consist of about eighteen miles each way and was made because their supplies were low They had been living in a rough "lean-to" shelter with the knowledge that ample supplies were always available in the cabin of Mr. Huy and Mr. Brown as arranged previously. Let us follow the words of an early historian, Attorney A. C. Smith, in **A Random Historical Sketch of Meeker County,** pp. 114-117:

> "It was a delightful morning—the sun shone brightly and the snow was melting fast till 9 a.m. when a gentle breeze from the northwest started up—in a short time clouds began to appear and by 12 a full-grown BLIZZARD was upon them.
>
> "They travelled as near a north-west course as they could calculate, until dark when they stopped in a small popple grove; gathering a pile of dry sticks, with which they started a fire, they camped for the night—imagination will tell how they spent the night, without food or blankets, and the thermometer down to 20 below zero and the wind blowing a hurricane, their only occupation was to hunt wood and keep up the fire till morning when they again started out, as was supposed in a direct course for Forest City and traveled until about 9 o'clock a.m. through snow from one to three feet deep striking Crow River, but whether above or below Forest City they could not tell, and after a search for several hours both up and down stream the Doctor became discouraged and both started to go back whence they came—this was about two p.m.—by this time the storm had abated and the sun came out just before night.
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> "About dark they accidently came to the place where they had camped the night before, but to their great disappointment the fire had gone out and their few remaining matches were found to be wet, they had no fire and as they started out without food, in anticipation of getting through to Forest City the same night, hunger and cold told on them terribly. The Doctor was badly chilled—both walked the grove for some time but concluded to strike out for camp as it was quite as easy to walk on the prairie as in the timber.
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> "Ripley showed signs of fatigue and quite frequently wanted to stop and rest—McClelland insisted it would not do to stop as he would freeze and McClelland was already aware that his own feet were partially frozen.
>
> "Ripley was evidently freezing as at every step he seemed to get weaker and less able to proceed and finally fell down in the snow—McClelland helped him up and led him on for some distance, until Ripley said "Mc. go ahead and if the teams have come into camp—have them come out after me.
>
> "McClelland very reluctantly left Ripley and made as rapid steps for camp as possible, knowing full well that he was taking a last farewell of the good man on earth.

"McClelland left Ripley about half a mile from what is now called Lake Ripley.

"The Dr. seems to have wandered back to the grove, where his remains were found in the April following by Mr. William S. Chapman (now of California.)

"McClelland left Ripley about 8 o'clock a.m. of the third day out and seven miles from camp. McClelland had a hard day's work and got into camp about sundown with his feet badly frozen, where he lay nineteen days! before the expected team arrived. Dr. Ripley was thirty-two years old.

"When McClelland was discovered in camp, he was in a dreadful state of prostration, was immediately removed to Shakopee and both legs amputated above the knee."

McClelland surmised that Dr. Ripley's remains were devoured by wolves as he himself had experienced difficulty in keeping the wolves off while in the cabin.

A few notes taken from the local **News Ledger** are instructive:

JUNE 26, 1873: "The body of Dr. Ripley who froze to death on the prairie between Round Lake and Lake Ripley is to be disinterred soon and buried in Ripley cemetery."

JUNE 28, 1878: "Burial services Sunday, June 16th. Reburial Dr. Ripley by Masonic Lodge. Burial services; Frederick Noah Ripley, The first white man who died in Meeker County.

"On Monday last a committee appointed by the Masonic order of this place reported to the spot where Dr. Ripley was lain 22 years ago last April and exhumed the remains for a more fitting interment in a lot which had been set aside by the cemetery association for that purpose. Dr. Ripley's remains were found and buried by William S. Chapman in April, 1856. His grave was beneath an oak tree a short distance southeast of the residence of Ole Johnson and tradition informs us that his frozen corpse was found in a half-sitting posture at the foot of the tree under which he was buried. The remains were found in a better preserved condition than was expected, the bones being all in a perfect state of preservation. A fitting casket was procured by the lodge and the remains were carried to the Masonic Hall to await the burial ceremony on Sunday last (June 16, 1878).

"At two o'clock the Masons assembled and formed in due and ancient style and headed by the Litchfield brass band and followed by quite a procession of citizens, escorted all that was left of Dr. Ripley to the cemetery. At the grave the usual Masonic services were held: the white apron and sprig were dropped upon the remains and Dr. Ripley now sleeps in an honored grave on the banks of the beautiful lake that perpetuates his name.

"The following very appropriate remarks were made by P.W.M. Judge A. C. Smith as the remains were consigned to their last resting place:

" 'My brethren! The occasion which calls us together is of no ordinary character.

" 'Among the many incidents pertaining to the settlement of a new country, there are none which appeal to the better sympathies of humanity than those which apply to the hardships of the ones who first take possession of the new "Eldorado."

" 'We today deposit in the central Rotunda of the Litchfield cemetery the remains of brother Frederick Noah Ripley.

" 'Of the history of Brother Ripley, it is unnecessary for me to speak; it has passed upon the record and become a portion of the permanent history of Meeker County. The name attached to yonder beautiful lake will be thus preserved through coming time.

" 'Twenty-two years ago, the frail tenement, represented today by the remains before us, gave up a valuable life on this then boundless and unsettled prairie; pillowed upon the snowbank—lost to the world—thousands of miles from relatives, and hundreds of miles from friends. God only knows the sufferings of a man in like circumstances; and why it was, that the talented and accomplished Ripley should be required to lay down his life, on this spot, in the bloom of early manhood, must forever remain a sealed book to mortal eyes.

" 'Suffice to say, Brother Ripley fell in with the then current of immigration and while he was among the first to interest himself in the settlement of central Minnesota, he was the first to surrender life on this vast prairie.

" 'He died on the third day of March, 1856; and about the middle of April following, his remains were discovered by William S. Chapman then of Minneapolis, now of California, who came to Forest City, and with the assistance of James Quick, Dudley Taylor, Matt Standish, and Rudolph Schultz, a plain coffin was provided from the scant material then to be had and a decent burial was given him in yonder grave. That narrow and somewhat homely tenement he has occupied for twenty-two years.

" 'In the meantime our county is covered over with the civilization of the age; Meeker and Kandiyohi counties now shelter more than twenty thousand inhabitants, from all parts of the civilized world. Our fields teem with the richest gifts of Ceres; luxurious dwellings now adorn our hillsides and peep from numerous groves surrounding beautiful lakes, and the stranger is entranced as he silently gazes on the scene spread out before him. Railroads pass us, over five hundred miles and we are in daily communication with all civilized countries of the globe.

" 'A town (Litchfield) has sprung up but a single mile from the cheerless death bed of Ripley, now containing twelve hundred inhabitants with five church edifices pointing to the sky, and with a Masonic Lodge of over seventy-five members, and it well becomes us, although at this late day, to pay this tribute to the memory of our deceased brother.

" 'My brethren! The obligations of Masonry are never circumscribed by the statute of limitations and should the kindred of our brother ever learn of this days doings, it maybe a consolation to them to know that the emblems of innocence and immortality have been strewn with a liberal hand over the final resting place of our brother by Golden Fleece Lodge Number 89, A.F. and A.M.:

" 'My brethren, we have searched for and found the remains of our deceased brother, and here deposit them in the Temple of the Dead in form and with the ancient solemnities of our order, ever bearing in mind that the little line that divides the living from the dead is narrow and brittle and on either side lie the tragedies of human life and all of the mysteries of the future.' ". . . . A. C. Smith, P.W.M.

Perhaps it would be well at this time, namely 1873, to glance at the county again. The land had been largely settled throughout its reaches.

The largest village was the county seat of Litchfield in the center of the county. Eden Valley was just being established astraddle the county line in the north central boundary. Darwin was a growing village seven miles east of Litchfield, and Dassel well established twelve miles east of Litchfield. Cedar Mills was a thriving hamlet eleven miles to the south of Litchfield, and Swede Grove or Grove City, eight miles to the west. There were post offices in Kingston in the northeast corner of the county, Forest City (the original county seat) seven miles northeast of Litchfield, Manannah thirteen miles northwest of Litchfield, Crow River five miles west of Manannah, Rosendale nine miles south of Grove City, Cosmos southwest of Grove City sixteen miles, Greenleaf eight miles south of Litchfield, Cedar Mills, four miles southwest of Greenleaf, Bonniwell Mills, in the extreme southeast part of the county, and Collinwood four miles southeast of Dassel. These inland towns having no railroad, had stage coach service regularly from one to six days per week.

Immigration had been principally from native-born "Yankees" of the eastern seaboard states during the fifties and sixties, but an abrupt change had begun by 1870. Irish settlers had developed a community at Rice Lake (now Darwin) and had communicated with their friends and relatives, who in turn arrived in ever larger numbers. Germans had found the townships of Greenleaf and Ellsworth much to their liking, and the same process had taken place there. Norwegians and Swedes came and settled throughout the county but with perhaps the greatest numbers in the central and western portions. Indeed, Grove City was originally called "Swede Grove" on that account, and a township still carries that well-deserved appellation. Later still a large group of Finnish people established their homes in the northeastern corner of the county, principally in Kingston township.

Consequently we are a well-mixed cosmopolitan race and justly proud of it. Intermarriage has naturally taken place, and minor groups and individuals including French, Indians, Bulgarians, Mexicans, Jewish, and Armenians, to mention a few specifically, have lived in and enjoyed the benefits of Meeker County citizenship. Perhaps the most interesting thing about the settlement of our county can be stated in this manner: Anyone coming here in pioneer fashion ex-

pected to have to work hard and build his own future with his own hands. His future and that of his progeny was assured if he was willing to combat the elements and take advantage of the productivity that nature provided. Of necessity he had to be strong physically, self-reliant, careful and frugal. These characteristics are typical of any Minnesotan today.

These pioneers of many extractions took their place well in the Civil War. The G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was well organized in Litchfield and in 1883 built and consigned their building to the City of Litchfield. Again we must state that this was another first for Meeker County in as much as this was the only meeting place owned by the G.A.R. in the entire State of Minnesota. At the outbreak of the Rebellion of 1861 there were twelve hundred inhabitants in Meeker County, and in summation we find two hundred forty-nine men who were regularly inducted as soldiers from this county. This probably is also a record.

Naturally, one looks for an explanation of such a situation, and it is readily available. The bloody Indian uprising of 1862 started in Meeker County. The Indians under Little Crow had been harassed and brow beaten, always shunted farther westward, and Meeker County was at that time a frontier of farmers that extended into the Indian country. Let us again follow an early historian, A. C. Smith, in **A Random Historical Sketch of Meeker County,** p. 38 ff.

> "The Indian War formed a tragical episode in the history of Meeker County.
>
> "About 11 o'clock a.m., of Sunday, the 17th of August, 1862, the first deliberate massacre of the brutal Sioux outbreak, took place 13 miles west of Forest City in the town of Acton.
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> "Six Indians came first to the house of Robinson Jones, and thence to that of Mr. Howard Baker, where they deliberately shot five person, viz: Robinson Jones, Howard Baker, Mrs. Ann Baker, Viranus Webster and Miss Clara D. Wlison, (the last named, at Jones' house). This was the commencement of that terrible Indian scourge, which resulted in the massacre of about nine hundred whites, on the frontier of Minnesota in the fall of 1862.
>
> "The preliminary tragedy at Acton, was not the result of a drunken riot—but was the commencement of a premeditated design to exterminate the whites from this region of the country, although probably this early commencement, by an insignificant band, was not a part of the programme of Little Crow and other leaders. I allude to this, to correct errors which appear to have already been manufactured into departmental history The Secretary of War reported to Congress, and all the pretended histories yet written, CRAW FISH to the fur traders, and allege a drunken brawl as the commencement of the affair, and also make statements credited to the reports of a child afterwards found in Jones' house on the eve of the 17th, about 8 o'clock. Mr. John Blackwell, a

reliable citizen, now deceased, found a little grandchild of Mrs. Ann Baker, 18 months old, on the floor in Jones' house (the only one left or found in the house) and took it away—this child was too young to talk and was totally unconscious of its tragic surroundings.

"It was lying upon the floor where it appeared to have cried itself to sleep.

"Whether the Indians considered the child too insignificant to kill, or did not see it at all, cannot be known, the latter supposition is probably correct.

"One writer says that the child lay on the bed and witnessed the scalping of his sister, but this is a mistake. The bed had not been tumbled and no other act done indicating that the Indians ever went into the house, and the girl had not been scalped or mutilated in any way but lay partly upon her back in a pool of blood just where she fell.

"After Baker and Webster ceased to breathe, their wives started for the house of Mr. John Blackwell, their nearest neighbor, Mrs. Baker carrying in her arms an infant child preserved from the massacre.

"When they reached Blackwell's they found no one at home, and proceeded on to the next neighbor, named Olson, a blacksmith, whom the Indians afterwards killed.

"Late in the afternoon Blackwell, on horseback, came riding leisurely home, and learned from Ole H. Ness, Esq., whom he met on the prairie, the terrible news, which he at first could not believe, but Mr. Ness advised him to go to the house of Olson where the women then were and learn the particulars from them, which he did, and learned from them that their husbands were dead before they left the house, and that two other persons, Robinson Jones and Mrs. Baker (mother of Howard Baker) were both shot, were both in great agony and evidently dying; that Mrs. Baker was lying in the house and Jones in the yard near the house; that the latter came there from his own house but a short time before where he had left the said niece and child.

"The fate of those children was then problematical, fearing the worst, the Indians having gone in that direction, Blackwell concluded at once, that to find out what had become of them was an imperative duty, and immediately rode back to where they had left Ole H. Ness and found him with Henry Halverson, A. Nelson Fosen and several others who had assembled and were discussing the matter.

"The men were all in favor of going at once to the scene of the tragedy and securing, if alive, the girl and child.

"It was after dark when they arrived at Jones house and the child was found alive—the remainder of the story has been told, and needs not to be repeated.

"The child was brought to Forest City and kept some months by Mr. and Mrs. Jewett and subsequently placed in charge of Mr. Charles H. Ellis of Otsego, Wright county, since which time we have lost track of him.

"Jones gave the Indians no liquor, and while there was liquor in Jones' house, up to the time of the inquest on Monday afternoon, there was no appearance of its having been molested. At the time of the inquest all the liquor in the house was poured on the ground.

"To show the evident design of these Indians to commit the tragedy at this point, we give the testimony of the wife of Mr. Howard Baker at the coroner's inquest conducted by A. C. Smith, the Judge of Probate and acting County Attorney. Her testimony was as follows:

"About 11 o'clock a.m. four Indians came into our house, staid about 15 minutes, got up and looked out, had the men take down their guns and shoot them off at a mark, then bantered for a trade with Jones. About 12 o'clock two more Indians came and got some water; our guns were not reloaded; the Indians loaded their guns in the dooryard; I went back into the house, did not suspect anything at the time; supposed they were going away; next I knew I heard the report of a gun and saw Webster fall; he stood and fell near the door; another Indian came to the door and aimed at Howard Baker and shot; did not kill him at that time; he shot the other barrel of his gun at Howard and he fell.

" 'My mother walked to the door and other Indian shot her; she turned to run and fell into the buttrey; they shot at her twice as she fell. I tried to get out of the window, but fell down cellar; saw Mrs. Webster pulling her husband into the house, don't know where she was prior to this; Indians immediately left the house; while I was in the cellar I heard firing out of doors.

" 'Jones said they were Sioux Indians and that he was well acquainted with them. Two of the Indians had white men's coats; one quite tall, one quite small, one thick and chubby and all middle aged Indians, one had two feathers in his cap and one had three Jones said "they asked me for whisky but I would not give them any" '.

"This testimony shows a deliberate intention to massacre Jones' family. The facts are, that Robinson Jones kept a sort of frontier public house and kept various articles of groceries, etc., with which he used to traffic with the Indians, with whom he was well acquainted, and obtained their furs and other proceeds of their hunting expeditions, and they had by some means got into his debt 40 or 50 dollars, which sum Jones had made arrangements to have paid out of their annuities.

"Certain Indian traders claimed the monopoly of the fur trade, and had for some years been in the habit of making advances to the Indians with the understanding that the Indians were to return to the traders the proceeds of the chase—the balance if any to be jerked (in a manner only known to Indians traders) out of the next succeeding annuities.

"Jones' little traffic was interfering quite materially with those traders, and was setting a bad precedent, and this may, perhaps, furnish a better clue than whisky, to the destruction of Jones' family, and which in its results, produced far more than the traders bargained for. The Indians were dissatisfied with all the traders, and Jones with the rest.

"Any one who understands the Indian trading system, as sanctioned by the Indian Department at Washington, can fill up the balance of the picture—those who do not, will never know any more about the origin of the Indian massacre than they do now.

"On Monday morning the 18th of August, news of the Acton massacre reached Forest City, and in less than an hour A. C. Smith, J. B. Atkinson, Milton Gorton and a few others accompanied by Mrs. Gorton and Mrs. Jewett, were on their way to the scene of the tragedy—with increasing numbers they arrived at Acton some sixty strong—held an inquest and buried the dead. On their return in the evening, the whole community was in a panic and appeared to be in Forest City."

"There were various men among our people, who "lived fast", between the 17th of August and the 4th of September, 1862—some in tragedy and some in comedy—far more peril to individuals than to companies of men, assembled for mutual protection.

"We could wish that we had a sketch of all such, including the hair-breadth escapes of men and families; but the facts are not furnished us, and we cannot do justice to the parties in interest from rumors obtained at the time, or from our recollection of circumstances." (pp. 58-59, **History of Meeker County**)

"On the 24th of August Capt. Strout was ordered to Forest City via Glencoe and Hutchinson but deeming Forest City the safest place, from his stand point, came up the Mississippi direct to the latter place, arriving on the eve. of the 27th, and went into camp near the law office of Judge Smith." (p. 64, **History of Meeker County**)

"There were 12 persons killed in Meeker County and 12 in Monongalia the names of which were, in Meeker, Robinson Jones, Ann Baker, Viranus Webster, Clara D. Wilson, Philip Deck, Joseph Page, Linus Howe, Wilmot Maybee, Nels Olsen, Caleb Sandborn and Cross, and in July, 1863 James McGannon. In Monongalia three Olsen's, father and two sons, Anderson and son, Carl Carlson and son, Mr. Backland, Mr. Lawrenson and the Lumberg family, and nine in McLeod County, contiguous to Meeker, viz: Mr. Spondy, wife and two children, one child of John Adams (taking John Adams prisoner) and four of the White family at Lake Addie. Mr. Adams was taken prisoner September 4th.

"Total killed in Meeker and vicinity, thirty-three, and probably some who have never been reported.

"July 1st, 1863 McGannon was shot between Kingston and Fair Haven, probably by Little Crow in person, as this distinguished chieftain was a few days after shot by Mr. Lamson on section 30 Town 118-29 (Collinwood) Meeker County, and was found in possession of McGannon's coat.

"The great native warrior, together with his son—young Crow, were quietly making a dinner of raspberries, when the Irishman's bullet called him to his final account." (pp. 82-83, **History of Meeker County**)

This then gives us a background in the struggle for a pioneer's livelihood. Let us visualize a few of the other obstacles.

In 1873 we have the story of a natural catastrophe which is best described in the words of a paragraph in the **Minneapolis Journal** of January 7, 1953:

"TODAY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF '73 BLIZZARD. Today is the anniversary of the great blizzard of 1873. It was known for sustained fury. For 52 solid hours an unrelenting wind blew, piling up huge drifts and cutting visibility to zero.

"The blizzard was especially severe in the Red River valley and southwestern Minnesota where three days of storming were reported. It followed a succession of steady snowfalls and erupted after calm weather had given many farmers opportunity to get to town. Many of them were caught by the storm.

"Seventy persons died in the state. In one case a boy who started from school for his home across the road was found frozen to death eight miles away. The summer of 1873 wasn't so good either. It saw the state's first great infestation of locusts."

Daniel Hoyt of Cosmos and Mike Condon and Mike Flynn of Forest City were among those who froze to death. The local impact of this storm is well summarized in the 40 year ago news column in the **Litchfield Independent Review** of March 19, 1914:

"At the request of a number of old timers we have gone to our files for an account of the terrible blizzard that occurred here more than 40 years ago in January, 1873.

"Tuesday, January 7, 1873—A warm day with spring-like zephyrs from the south changed suddenly with a shift in the wind about 3 p.m. to one of the worst blizzards this area has ever experienced. Many farmers in town because of the mild earlier weather sought shelter at hotels and with friends and 15 of them were lodged overnight at S. A. Heard's store. Mrs. T. G. Crump and Mrs. Adams of this city were out riding when the storm hit and took refuge at the nearest farmhouse.

"All trains are abandoned with not a one trying to make a move on Wednesday, the second day of the storm. Tuesday night the passenger train got stuck in drifts west of Benson with passengers and crew marooned several hours before the line was cleared to Benson. Henry Jenks' freight train made the run to Darwin but only with engine and caboose, the rest of the cars being left here. The stagecoach from Dassel to Hutchinson started on its way from Dassel Tuesday afternoon but got lost in the storm and after a hard struggle brought up at this place, the team having wandered from the road and the storm so fierce the driver became bewildered, he was nearly frozen.

"More than a week after the blizzard on January 16 the G. N. snowplow had cleared the line as far as Atwater but three miles west of that town the plow struck a drift that stopped her. The engines backed away about a mile and took a run for it, hitting the drift with full force. The plow was broken in three pieces and the forward engine ran up into the bank its full length and was six feet above the track when it stopped. The drift that foundered the plow estimated as 20 feet high.

"In Kandiyohi County 27 persons are missing and 15 of them are known to have perished in the storm. Two are known to have died in this vicinity. All together the storm raged three days. Those who had cattle and horses in the barn were obliged to tie clothesline from the house to the barn to guide them and insure reaching the house after they had cared for the stock."

Another terrific storm occurred in 1888 which is best described in a column of the **St. Paul Pioneer Press** of January, 1955:

"DISASTROUS 1888 BLIZZARD RECALLED ON ANNIVERSARY. A teacher and eight children huddled on their knees in the middle of a sod schoolhouse near Hadley, Minnesota, 67 years ago Wednesday. They were praying for their lives. The temperature fell to 40 below and fine, crystal-sharp snow was driven by a 50-mile-an-hour wind. The blizzard of 1888 was one of the worst in the nation's history. It swept through 11 mid-western states. The teacher and eight children were rescued by a pioneer farmer.

"But, before the winds and snow stopped, 109 were dead in western Minnesota alone. In the entire storm area, the death toll reached 500 to 1,000. The storm started in Canada the night of January 11, dropping the temperature to 40 below at St. Vincent, Minnesota, near the Canadian border. Ahead it was unusually warm. Newspaper accounts said there was a dead calm and children came to school 'without their ragged overcoats.'

"First sign of the storm was a 'wall of white coming across the prairie.' Its suddenness caught many unprepared. A father and son were trapped in the barn only a few steps from their rural Chokio, Minnesota, home. They stayed in the barn 24 hours.

"A teacher and six pupils had to stay in the schoolhouse two nights near pipestone, Minnesota. They tied a rope around the oldest boy while he went outside to get wood for a small stove. Visibility was zero. At Huron, South Dakota, Policeman O. H. Van Dyke burrowed into a snowbank in 35-below weather. He stayed there about 12 hours, his legs frozen stiff."

A few bear and many deer and wolves were killed in these early days; and while not dangerous except in exceptional cases when deep snows drove the wolves to extreme boldness, they certainly did not contribute to the peace of mind of the inhabitants. Witness a column in the **Litchfield News Ledger** of December 16, 1886:

"Miss Kitty Hayford, of this city, is teaching the school in the Larson district, just west of Long Lake, in the town of Acton. Last Friday evening she started to go from the school house to the place where she is boarding, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile. When she had gone perhaps half of the distance she discovered that two wolves were following and gaining gradually upon her. She commenced walking faster and had got some distance further on when a couple of men driving on a road crossing the one upon which she was traveling called to her to run, at the same time shooting and killing one of the wolves. Miss Kitty obeyed the command and ran as fast as she could, the remaining wolf continuing after her, gaining all the time.

"As she neared the place where she boards, was aware that she could not make the house, so she ran up on the drive-way to the barn. The wolf ran up to the drive-way, but seemed afraid to proceed further. There it stood, however, and kept Miss Kitty from going to the house until a man drove up with a load of hay and frightened the wolf away.

To say that Miss Kitty was frightened but states it mildly and to say that any one else would have been, in her place, hits the truth square on the head. It seems to us that when the wolves get so plentiful and ravenous as to endanger human life, it is about time that some sort of a determined effort was made to exterminate them."

Notes in the **Litchfield Independent** are interesting:

February 22, 1887: "Several wolves were seen on Lake Ripley Sunday and others are reported at various points almost daily."

March 1, 1887: "A Cedar Mills man had his clothes torn half off by an attack of four wolves when he held them off by yelling and a team of horses came to his help."

However until the 1870's deer, smaller game and the myriads of wild fowl contributed greatly to the larders of our forbearers, not to mention the fish, taken by the "wagon load," from our teeming lakes and streams. This wildlife is all still present within our borders though in greatly diminished amount.

The summer of 1873 saw a terrfic infestation of locusts which truly ate up whole fields throughout the agricultural areas of Minnesota and the Dakotas, leaving our state with less than half a crop. I believe the locusts returned in decreasing numbers for another year or two. Grasshoppers caused severe destruction of crops in the 1880's.

Due to primitive living conditions, crowding and frequently lack of proper nutrition, tuberculosis was a busy, insidious and inexorable foe to our pioneer people. Typhoid fever, possibly due to the impossibility of recognzing carriers and lack of hygienic care, sporadically took its toll in minor epidemics and was continually present in lesser degree.

Scarlet fever was very virulent in these days, and epidemics regularly swept through the schools. Diphtheria was all too often rampant in the winter months and would sweep one community after another, destroying the lives of many of the young as well as more mature citizens.

In December, 1882, the village of Litchfield had the regulations of the State Board of Health in reporting of contagious diseases published by the newspapers. Presumably this was in line with regulations of the state of Minnesota and required doctors, heads of families, and hotels to make such report locally. The **News Ledger** of February 21, 1884, makes this statement: "Ottertail county contributed 415 deaths from diphtheria last year."

The **Litchfield Independent** of May 21, 1887, states: "Schools in the Bonniwell and Bromley Districts are closed on account of diphtheria." And in the **News Ledger** of May 19, 1887: "Dr. F. E. Bissell as H. O. reported on diphtheria to the village council, excerpts as follows: 'In this locality, within a stone's throw there are now five cases of malignant diphtheria two others already fatal and more to follow.' "

In 1878 the **News Ledger** of November 1st has this to offer: "Diphtheria is having a little run in this place and we (the editor, Mr. Daggett) had a tussle with it the first of the week."

News Ledger, April 8, 1880: "There were 50 cases of scarlet fever reported in 1880. The **News Ledger** for January 8, lists 349 births for 1878 and causes of death as follows:

131 Deaths
24 Diphtheria
12 Consumption
7 Convulsions
6 Accident
5 Typhoid Fever
5 Scarlet Fever
4 Lung Fever

the rest miscellaneous or unlisted.

A glance at one of the county reports made in February, 1888, on vital statistics is instructive. In 1877:

333 Births
127 Deaths

Causes:

17 Diphtheria
(probably more as croup was given as cause in 3 others)
9 Consumption
9 Typhoid Fever
7 Inflammation of Bowels
(appendicities?)
6 Lung Fever

Mumps, whooping cough, and measles always contributed to the morbidity of the population but were seldom mentioned in the newspapers.

I have been unable to find much information on the prevalence of smallpox, but in the **News Ledger** of December 9, 1881, this occurs: "Children are to be excluded from school if not vaccinated."

In the **News Ledger** of August 11, 1881, we find this: "No more smallpox patients need apply, as the residence created for their convenience was demolished by the storm last Tuesday."

A news item quoted to me by Dr. Rosenthal of St. Paul states that: "Dr. Bissel of Litchfield was ordered to do a lot of vaccinating last winter which he did, and his bill was allowed. Later an appeal was sustained by the District Court, so he goes without his pay."

Again I am indebted to Dr. Rosenthal for the following: "In 1899-1901 there was a terrific smallpox epidemic over much of the United States. Prior to October 1, 1899 (the general outbreak of the epidemic in Minnesota), at least one case was imported to Willmar. This case was found in full bloom at the railway station in Willmar on September 16, 1899, and apparently was infected in a hospital in Great Falls, Montana. He was broken out in Great Falls but was not diagnosed correctly and was permitted to leave."

"He supposedly was advised by the attending doctor to keep away from physicians because his condition resembled smallpox and he might be placed in a 'pest house.' Montana physicians at that time were disputing about an eruptive disease which some were quarantining and some not."

In the December 21, 1881, **News Ledger:** "The smallpox scare is subsiding somewhat in this locality."

In the **News Ledger** of January 28, 1882: "The National Board of Health has declared smallpox epidemic throughout United States."

The **News Ledger** of April 3, 1873, states: "It has cost the town of Hutchinson $250 to take care of its smallpox cases the past year."

Evidently the localities were more eager to discuss epidemics in other localities than in their own, but smallpox must have been sporadic throughout the nation in these years. As a boy, I remember the common sight of smallpox marked faces much more frequently than it is seen now, and well do I remember the two weeks' illness resulting from my first vaccination. Dr. J. W. Robertson presented a paper in 1901 to the Crow River Medical Society on the use of glycerinated smallpox vaccine. (Previously, the serum from vaccination pustules had to be inoculated directly with resultant secondary infections of no mean degree.)

—oOo—

Other hazards troubled these citizens due to their hard work and lack of relaxation. Some interesting notes are uncovered in the **Litchfield News Ledger:**

June 11, 1872—"An Institution That Is Full"

"August Freburg of Swede Grove has been adjudged an insane person needing hospital treatment, but the following letter to Judge Howell shows that it is impossible for the case to be treated at the State Hospital.

'Minnesota State Hospital for the Insane
St. Peter, Minnesota
June 8, 1872

'Judge C. B. Howell
'Dear Sir:

" 'Yours came to hand last evening. Our house is more than full and the trustees at their meeting next week will probably publish the fact that no more can be admitted until more accommodations can be provided. We have fifty more patients now than can be properly cared for by present arrangements. **If I had one from your county suitable to return, I would exchange with you,** but I do not think there is such a case from your county just now.

Yours Truly,
C. K. Bartlett, Supt.' "

(The information suggests the early inadequacy of mental hospital facilities.)

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The early settlers also were afflicted with other difficulties. The newspapers recall frost as of June 7, 1885, and also freezing on August 13 of 1885, while that year recorded the hottest July known to Minnesota. Hailstorms were frequent, and still are, but usually of small areas, cylones also appeared as they still do.

Wheat prices particularly in 1873, 74, and 75 were $.76 per bushel, and the railroads were apparently charging exorbitant prices to carry the wheat to Chicago. The discussion reached such a degree that in 1885, farmers organized in many areas in the county and built their own cooperative elevators. This maneuver succeeded very well in procuring a fair price for the grain and a fair rate for its shipment and freed them of dependence upon prices set by millers.

In 1887 cinch bugs worked havoc amongst the crops, and in June 22 of that year a killing frost again ventured into the north half of the county. In 1899 small grain rust produced a great deficit in the usual yields.

However at this time R.F.D. became an established service to our farmers, and telephone lines began to be erected. The automobile and tractor were soon to follow.

A city water tower and electric lights were already established in Litchfield, the county seat, in 1890, and a new court house had been erected in 1885.

Stagecoaches radiating from Litchfield in all directions were on regular schedules during most of these years to furnish passage and communication by post.

This note in the **New Ledger** of November 28, 1872, I find impossible to suppress "The**Alexandria Post** is jubilant over the arrival of a 12½ pound baby in that town. (Standard weight in Meeker County.")

Also in the **News Ledger** of December 11, 1873: "Effects of the 'Panic" on the People." "Doc. Bissell hopes to be able to prescribe a remedy soon that will set everybody up on pep again. He calls the disease business 'Prostration.' "

Unquestionably 1873 was a real depression for the county. Many local businesses failed, and economically the residents did not recover from the "doldrums" for ten years.

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The **Crow River Medical Society** was the first local medical organization and was rather loosely drawn up to include Meeker, Kandiyohi, and probably Stearns counties. McLeod county and Renville county men were numbered among the early members, and anyone in the vicinity was cordially invited, apparently much as the Northern and Southern Medical Societies operate as of today.

The **Litchfield News Ledger,** September 24, 1874, carries this:

"Medical Association"

"A meeting was held on Thursday, September 17th at the office of Drs. Kennedy and Gibbs for the purpose of organizing a medical society. Dr. N. H. Knowles, St. Cloud, was elected chairman and Dr. Kee Wakefield, secretary. It was decided that the name of this society should be Crow River Medical Society. Dr. V. P. Kennedy was appointed to select a constitution and by-laws and report at next meeting. The code of either of the American Medical Associations (Homeopath or Allopathy) was adopted for the regulation of this society. Officers for permanent organization were elected as follows:

President: Dr. N. H. Knowles
Vice-pres.: Dr. E. Hildebrandt
Treasurer: Dr. E. S. Gibbs
Secy.: Dr. Kee Wakefield

"Meeting adjourned until the first Thursday in November at 2:00 p.m.

Kee Wakefield, Secretary"

This society flourished well until after the turn of the century, and good scientific papers were presented frequently and the meetings were distributed about to take advantage of the local hospitality and varying facilities. Lake Koronis, Green Lake, Lake Ripley, and probably many other areas were used, and wives were included to increase the sociability.

Certainly in addition to those men named in the original group of officers should be added the names of Dr. Archibald of Atwater, Dr. McCollom of Dassel, Dr. Sherwood of Kimball, Dr. J. C. Jacobs of Willmar, Dr. Pilon of Paynesville, Dr. Newman of New London, and Drs. J. W. Robertson, F. E. Bissel, W. E. Chapman, and George Weisel, J. J. Donovan, and Henry E. Cassell of Litchfield. There were, of course, many other members before and after 1900 including St. Cloud and Benson men who will be more fittingly discussed in historical papers from other counties.

However, interest died down and, like the old soldiers, the society faded away. A reorganization took place in the 1920's with Kandiyohi, Swift, and Meeker counties banding together for the purpose of obtaining better scientific programs, but Meeker county retained its individual vote in the State House of Delegates at the annual Minnesota Medical Association meetings. Some of the original social activities continue to permeate the present group in that each county entertains the society at least once a year.

Undoubtedly most of these men were of the so-called allopathic school of medicine, which today is known as the regular school. Homeopathic schools graduated many fine physicians in those days and indeed had their own national association. It was a familiar question in the farm homes in that century to ask for a homeopath or an allopath to call, depending on what mother liked. The homeopaths gave small doses of their drugs, compounded before your eyes and largely put up in paper folders. Their idea was to assist nature with small doses, chiefly of quinine and calomel which were to be taken at very specific intervals. Needless to say, the compounding of these remedies in your very home entranced the patients. The allopaths did as they do now. Antibiotics as we recognize them now were entirely unheard of, but kitchen table surgery was common and surprisingly successful.

The Mayo boys, "Will and Charlie," had discovered that an appendix should be removed and could be and, admonished by their father, had established a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, given up to healing the sick. They traveled far and near to learn as much as they could and gave freely of their experiences and judgments to our own physicians who attended their clinics.

Our early physicians traveled principally by horse drawn vehicles or on horse back through rain and snow, in fair or foul weather, to deliver this service to the well deserving pioneers. In these early days the doctor was expected to come to the home primarily, rather than to examine you at his office.

In epidemics of influenza or "epizootic" as it may have been called, he was driven by his driver "south of town" in the forenoon, making calls in that neighborhood. In the afternoon with a fresh team and probably a fresh driver he drove "north of town." The people residing in the community always had hot coffee and food for Doctor "X" and, even though he was not their usual physician, asked him to do what he could for "Auntie Johnson—as long as he was in the neighborhood." Many times they drove in to get him themselves. Perhaps if a baby was due, he and his driver would put up for the night until the new Minnesotan arrived.

Of course, the usual procedure at childbirth was for the midwife to arrive a week or two in advance of the event and remain and attend the entire family for a period of three or four weeks. The doctor was not usually needed unless complications developed.

—oOo—

Charlatans of all types in the art of healing were rampant in these early years. One could call himself doctor by the simple expedient of growing a beard and wearing eye glasses. Itinerant "doctors" arrived at the local hostels for a day or a week and gave to our pioneers the advantages (?) of their knowledge and skill. Witness a few items in the local newspapers.

News Ledger, June 11, 1874—(a card)

"Mrs L. A. Mudgett respectfully informs the ladies of Litchfield that she will attend to those who may wish the professional aid of one of their own sex. Mrs. Mudgett, having received regular medical education and been in active practice for the past eighteen years, believes she is able to administer remedies on scientific principles and in the most complicated forms of disease. From the recommendations Mrs. M. carries with her in all parts, we should judge her well qualified in her profession.

Rooms at Ripley House"

News Ledger, January 21, 1871—

"Dr. O. Nelson, formerly of Minneapolis, is stopping this winter at William Porters in Darwin. His specialty is the eye, and he has been treating a young daughter of Mr. Porters's who has been ailing in her left eye for five years and nearly blind for the past three years. She has already receivmuch benefit from his treatment and her friends are sanguine that her sight will be restored to her again."

News Ledger, February 20, 1879—

"Dr. Weinsma (local physician) had published a long list of prescriptions and directions for treating common cold which should have kept both the patients and the druggists busy."

News Ledger, October 18, 1876—(courtesy card)

"Dr. S. L. Barr: Special attention given to diseases of the ear, skin, and those peculiar to women."

"Parties in country furnishing their own team will be charged mileage only.

"Chronic diseases of all kind treated, medicine furnished. Dr. S. L. Barr."

Sometimes the Regulars fought back:

News Ledger, May 29, 1879—

"To the people of Litchfield and County: A few days last week a Dr. Yarnall was among you claiming to treat and cure chronic diseases of both male and female. As far as the doctor is concerned, I have nothing to say for or against him, but will ask those who are afflicted with any chronic disease, why it is they seek the aid of one whom they know nothing of and who perhaps they will never see again in preference to their home physicians, who are equally as well able to treat any such cases upon a much smaller sum of money than those who travel through the country, not for YOUR welfare but for the benefit, principally, of THEIR pockets.

"Your home physicians can treat your case equally as well, and the benefit to you is still greater for this reason: You can consult them in regard to your case every day in the week if necessary, and without extra charge. I will not guarantee a cure in any chronic case; for no physician, if he knows his business, can or will say positively, that such and such a case can be cured; but will give you the benefit of the treatment attained from scientific work on disease, be it acute or chronic. Patronize home talent and save your money. Respectfully, S. L. Barr, M.D."

News Ledger, April 23, 1882—

"To all concerned: I will guarantee to all patients that their bill for medicines during sickness shall not exceed the sum of $3.00. All in excess of such sum will be furnished FREE. I receive no commission on prescriptions. Dr. S. L. Barr."

New Ledger, May 4, 1882—

"Fees for Medical Attendance"

Visits in town per day	$ 1.50
Visits in country $.50 per mile one way and for visit	1.50
Obstetrical including care of patient till up	10.00
Office prescription	.50
Night calls extra per visit	.50

News Ledger, February 14, 1877—

"Dr. Kennedy assisted by Dr. Barr one day last week performed a difficult piece of surgery. A German lady of this county had for the past year been suffering from the formation of a cancer on her left breast, and Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Barr took the same out root and branch. It was nearly the size of a goose egg and almost as hard as bone. The lady is now in a fair way of an entire cure."

News Ledger—"A Mrs. McGannon of Litchfield is treating a skin cancer for a G. France with a fair prospect of cure."

News Ledger, February 19, 1874—

"A. G. Whittier showed his countenance in this village last Saturday and tarried until Monday. He wanders through the land with a pair of horses and a commission from Dr. J. C. Ayer to alleviate human suffering and to restore hair to its prospective freshness and color again. Whittier is a true philanthropist and can probably sell more Cherry Pectoral than any other living man. As for his hair dye, he is just old Persimmons."

"J. H. Bacon, Dentist
Marshall Ave. opposite Town Hall

The Independent, August 8, 1885—

"I am ready to pull your tooth and then take your picture. Have had years of experience in both dentistry and photography. Give me a call."

News Ledger, May 6, 1880—

"Dr. E. H. Orene, clairvoyant and magnetic physician will be in Litchfield on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11 and 12. He will make examinations and give medical or magnetic treatments as cases may require. All chronic cases successfully treated. Those requiring examination should call early as I will remain but two days. Can be consulted at Exchange Hotel."

However, the doctors themselves could create a little disturbance, as witness these columns appearing in the local papers.

News Ledger, July 12, 1877—

"Owing to a card C. J. Erickson of Swede Grove (Grove City) wrote in our last issue, the physicians of this place became anxious to ascertain the facts relative to his membership in the State Medical Society and wrote to the faculty concerning the same. The following is the answer received:

'Minn. State Medical Society
Secretary's Office
July 7, 1877

'V. P. Kennedy, M.D.
'Dear Sir:

I have examined the record of 1869 and 70 in accordance with your request. I fail to find in them any mention of C. J. Erickson. No such name appears either in the minutes, among the signatures to the constitution, or in the printed list of members.

Very truly yours,
C. H. Boardman'

"The above is published at the request of physicians of this place."

News Ledger, July 11, 1877— "Notice!"

"Owing to a misunderstanding, I am informed that a few people of Meeker county are under the impression that I am not what I claim to be: viz, a regular, practicing physician. To prove that I am a practicing physician with full rights invested in me by the State Medical Society, I publish my diploma signed by the officers of that association in 1869. I do this not through ill will toward anyone but simply to place myself and those who would injure me in a right light before the people. Respectfully, C. J. Erickson."

News Ledger, July 26, 1877—

"Willing that all men shall have full justice shown them in every particular and unwilling intentionally to wrong any man, I hereby certify that I have examined a certificate from Dr. John H. Murphy of St. Paul stating that he was chairman of the board of censors for the State Medical Society at its meeting in the year 1869 in the city of St. Paul and that said body did examine and pass for membership Dr. C. J. Erickson now of Swede Grove and that the State Medical Society did grant him a certificate of membership. I believe said certificate to be genuine. The letter of Dr. Boardman, the present secretary of the society, still remains unexplained.

"By that letter, I was led into the doing of an injustice, and I am glad to make amends thereof. As the doctor claims the protection of the State Medical Society and professes to be governed by its rules, I hope in the future, he will be a little more careful to observe its code of ethics in his intercourse with its members. V. P. Kennedy, M. D."

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Apparently DR. KENNEDY represented the doctors in Meeker county at this time. There could be no better time than this to introduce his name into our story. You already witnessed his education, honesty, ability and charm in the above newspaper battle.

The existing photographs show him as a spare elderly gentleman of kindly mien surrounded by a good sized family on the front porch of a good sized two story frame dwelling. A bicycle is to his left. The picture was probably taken in South Dakota. The doctor became somewhat peripatetic in his more prosperous years and divided his time between Ordway, South Dakota, and Litchfield, Minnesota, with trips to Washington Territory, Washington, D. C., Amarillo, Texas, and Florida as interesting side lights.

He worked hard and well as a doctor and was beloved for his services, which had been rendered under the greatest natural vicissitudes of the times. He had prospered at it, and in later years spent increasing amounts of his energies and talents in politics and exploitation of newly developed agricultural territories.

Dr. Kennedy was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1824, and was given the name Vincent Pellett Kennedy. His father was Martin Kennedy, his mother Elinor Pellett. He was a very energetic type and rightfully found an outlet for his talents in our county.

At five years of age he and his parents moved to Indiana where he was educated locally. He went on to Asbury University at Green Castle, Indiana, for two years at twenty-one years of age. From there he matriculated at Rockville, Indiana. Here he became imbued with the idea of becoming a physician, and a year later we find him in Louisville, Ken-

tucky. He entered Rush Medical College in Chicago and graduated there in 1851. He did post graduate work there again in 1875 and received an additional degree from Bellevue Hospital College of New York in the same year. He was a licensed pharmacist as well as an M. D. Little more is known of his whereabouts until 1856 when he entered Meeker county. He had been pretty much on his own, as his father died when he was ten years of age and his uncle had given him a home on his farm in Indiana. Apparently he earned his own education.

He pre-empted Dr. Ripley's claim on the banks of Cedar Lake in June, 1856, making the usual down payment and building a small dwelling thereon. He raised a few potatoes that year, but the Indians robbed him of his crop. In 1860 we find him elected to the Minnesota State Legislature and re-elected again in 1861. He accordingly spent most of his time in St. Paul, though retaining the farm in Meeker county. In 1862 he enlisted as surgeon to the 5th Minnesota Regiment and served with them until mustered out at Montgomery, Alabama, in May of 1865.

He spent this summer on his farm, and in the fall he received an appointment as physician to the Chippewa Indians on their reservation at Red Lake, Minnesota. Here he remained from November, 1865, until March, 1867, when he returned to Meeker county.

He bought the grist mill at Cedar Mills and ran that personally until 1869. At this time the railroad had been built through the county and Litchfield had been incorporated as a village, and the county seat had been moved to Litchfield from Forest City. Dr. Kennedy opened offices in the new village (Litchfield) and practiced actively for the next eleven years.

In 1880 he went to Brown County, Dakota Territory, and filed on a claim which he continued to hold, though returning to Litchfield for most of the time until 1883. At that time he established a drug store and practiced his profession at Ordway, South Dakota. He was also postmaster for the town.

In 1885 he was elected to the Dakota Senate and was actively interested in shaping territorial legislation including the site for the state capitol of South Dakota. In the spring of 1886 his family returned to Litchfield, and the doctor was back and forth between the two points but eventually remained in Litchfield.

The doctor was primarily a Republican in politics but at one time "jumped the fence" and came in for considerable

newspaper castigation at the time. He was an active member of the G.A.R. In 1887 he was elected Medical Director for the Department of Minnesota G.A.R. and served one year. He joined Golden Fleece Lodge No. 49 A.F. and A.M. in Litchfield during the autumn of 1875. He was prominently identified with the Minnesota State Medical Association and had received considerably more education than most of his confreres at that time. His skill and integrity in his practice were unquestioned, and he had a large group of loyal followers. In later years he devoted most of his time to his extensive farming interests, having 360 acres in our county all improved and 640 in Dakota with 400 under the plow.

He was listed in the Official Registry of Physicians in Minnesota from 1883 until 1890. He was licensed by the Statute of Exemptions, having been engaged in active practice for many years before official registration was required.

Dr. Kennedy evidently was married in Chicago in 1849 while in Rush Medical College. Miss Julia A. Rudisell was his first wife and bore him two children; one, Julia A., married Nimrod Barrick, and they lived on the original claim in Meeker county throughout their lives. Under this name several grandchildren and great-grandchildren are still actively contributing their share to Meeker county's economy.

The first Mrs. Kennedy died July 13, 1854. Her sister Caroline, who had been housekeeper for the doctor at and after that time, and Dr. Kennedy were married July 2, 1860. Three sons were born to this union—Milford P., who farmed in Dakota, and Harry M. and Lewis H. who attended the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Kennedy died February 7, 1903, from Bright's disease and was buried with honors of the G.A.R. in Ripley cemetery. He was 78 years, 6 months, and 27 days of age.

This man had boundless energy, determination, and foresight as will be shown by a few quotations from local newspapers during the span of his greatest activity.

News Ledger, April 3, 1873—
"We learn that Dr. Kennedy's team took a sudden bath in Cedar Lake a few days ago in which they remained for over an hour before they could be extricated."

Litchfield Ledger, October 23, 1873—
"Dr. V. P. Kennedy was Secretary of the Meeker County Democratic Convention of 1873."

Litchfield Ledger, December 25, 1873—
"A Cedar Mills news item bemoans the removal of Dr. Kennedy to Litchfield."

News Ledger, February 19, 1874—
"Dr. V. P. Kennedy was elected President of the Meeker County Council, Patrons of Husbandry (National organization with townships organized under a county council)."

News Ledger, October 15, 1874—

"Dr. Kennedy left for the east on Monday last. His family has moved to Cedar Mills for the winter."

News Ledger, December 10, 1874—

"Dr. Kennedy will go to Philadelphia after the holidays and attend medical lectures."

News Ledger, February 11, 1875—

"Dr. Kennedy was registered at the Minnesota Headquarters, New York, a few days ago."

News Ledger, October 28, 1875—

"People are advised not to vote for Dr. Kennedy for state Representative as he could not be spared from his legitimate business."

News Ledger, February 14, 1877—

"A leg amputation was successfully done a week ago in Wright county by Dr. Kennedy."

News Ledger, July 25, 1878—

"Dr. Kennedy became a "Greenback" candidate (Democratic—?) for State Senator. There was considerable criticism of this by the **Republican News Ledger** until election time, October 5th, of that year. Dr. Kennedy was defeated by the incumbent Charles E. Cutts of Forest City by only 33 votes. A recount was considered by both men but 'as gentlemen abandoned the idea.' "

Independent Review, September 4, 1880—We find:

"Dr. Kennedy resigned as committee member of the Republican county organization due to differences with the party, and it was accepted."

News Ledger, September 16, 1880—

"After much viturperative discussion between Dr. Kenedy and Si Leavitt regarding hiring a school teacher, one letter published for Mr. Leavitt concludes as follows: 'You have the reputation of being a surgeon. Turn your professional knife upon yourself, to cut from your heart the rooted cancer of falsehood and treachery that has flourished there until it has outgrown and overtopped every honest principle of your being; your scalpel to scrape from your brain the corrosive barnacles of buffoonery, bombast and slander, so long the leading principles of your life, and it is barely possible you may be then received into the society of respectable people.' Laconia, New Hampshire, September 16, 1880. S. W. Leavitt."

News Ledger, September 23, 1880—(portions of Dr. Kennedy's reply)

"An Adieu to Si Leavitt"

"Editor, Ledger: In your last issue appeared a communication all the way from New Hampshire characteristic of the man who penned it. For scurrility and low Billingsgate he even outdid himself.

[Dr. Kennedy proves by letters from President Folwell and Dr. Hutchinson of the University of Minnesota that he was right in his argument.]

" 'Falous in Uno, Falous in Omnibus' if applied to Si Leavitt, would make him unworthy of belief in anything . . . And it only remains now for him to make the same assertions in reference to President Folwell and Dr. Hutchinson and everybody else. I suppose that he would expect this community to believe it. Adieu, my little man in black, adieu. V. P. Kennedy.' "

Dr. Kennedy at this time was again running for State Senator against W. M. Campbell. The results were close and contested but settled in the Minnesota Senate chambers February 15, 1881, that Campbell had won by 16 votes.

News Ledger, April 1, 1880—

"Dr. Kennedy is the president of the newly organized Litchfield Board of Trade."

About this time, Dr. S. L. Barr, who had a somewhat loose association with Dr. Kennedy left him to later establish himself at Glencoe, and we find this courtesy card in the **News Ledger** of November 24, 1881:

"Drs. Kennedy and Newlands
Office: Dr. Kennedy's Old One—Marshall Ave.
V. P. Kennedy, M.D. George Newlands, M.D.
Night Calls at Office Promptly Attended To."

News Ledger, April 21, 1881—

"Last Sunday Dr. Kennedy was thrown from his buggy and his shoulder was dislocated. Dr. Bissel was called and set same. Dr. Kennedy is again out now but suffers considerably from the accident."

News Ledger, February 23, 1882—

Dr. Kennedy is home again. He has been to Washington within the past month and had a squint at the assassin (Guiteau.")

Independent, December 2, 1884—

"Dr. Kennedy arrived here for a short stay last Saturday. He was elected to the Dakota Council (Territorial) at the late election. His district comprises ten counties, and he managed to squeeze in with a majority of 7000 votes."

Independent, January 20, 1885—

"Dr. Kennedy is in his element now. The Dakota Legislature is in session, and the Dr. has created a furor by announcing that he will introduce a bill for relocating the capital.

"South Dakota has a clear majority in the Legislature and there will no doubt be some lively music over the matter."

Independent, April 28, 1885—

"Dr. Kennedy subscribed $20.00 toward the G.A.R. hall. He is living in South Dakota but has not lost all interest in Litchfield."

Independent, December 1, 1885—

"Dr. Kennedy has been in town for a few days. He will start soon for Florida with his family to spend the winter."

Independent, May 28, 1886—

"Dr. V. P. Kennedy and wife arrived in the city early last week and have moved into their residence east of the park. The doctor says he has come back to stay. Look out for a lively time in politics this fall."

Independent, July 13, 1886—

"The crops on Dr. Kennedy's farm in Dakota was destroyed by hail last week but covered by insurance."

Independent, October 5, 1886—

"Dr. Kennedy nominated in Republican convention for Meeker County, as candidate for State Senator. Defeated by O. H. Campbell. He was made **chairman** of the Republican county committee, however, for the ensuing year. **Charles E. Cutts** was a member of the same committee."

In April of 1869 we find him going to Amarillo, Texas, investing in land and returning to Litchfield in June. He returned to Amarillo in October, ostensibly to check on crops.

A note at about this time appeared in a column in an Idaho (sic Dakota—?) paper: "Brother V. P. Kennedy has been a member of the I.O.O.F. 44 years, treasurer of same the 20th time, city treasurer a number of years. He has been a pharmacist. Had his reverses at times, but had tended to business and his word is good as law."

News Ledger, March 29, 1887—
"He refused to be a nominee for Mayor."

Apparently from this time on he devoted little time to public service but was kept busy with his many outside interests and certainly appeared happy and contented in his late years.

Dr. Kennedy was a great Latin and Greek student and coached students, hence his long and verbose newspaper battle with Si Leavitt over the qualifications of a high school teacher. He could do anything with his hands and in his old age in Aberdeen, South Dakota, built a duplex doing most of the work himself. He was one of the most outstanding pioneers in the vicinity.

DR. RUSSEL WHITEMAN

According to Dr. Rosenthal, Dr. Whiteman was born in Essex, New York and died in Anoka, Minnesota, February 26, 1893. He graduated from the Union College, Philadelphia, in 1844 and came to Minnesota in 1857 (?) and settled on a farm in Meeker County. He moved to Anoka in 1864 where he practiced medicine.

He is listed by A. C. Smith as being one of the three first white setters in Greenleaf township, one of the others being Dr. V. P. Kennedy, and they arrived in 1856. A son was born to him in 1857 and may have been the first male birth in Meeker county, a girl having been born by name of Dougherty in Meeker county in 1856 at or near Forest City.

DR. GEORGE WEISEL

Dr. George W. Weisel came to Meeker county probably in 1866 locating at Forest City. He was an allopath and when the county seat moved to Litchfield in 1869, he also moved there. He helped develope a subdivision, and a street was named in his honor.

He was the first practicing physician to settle in Litchfield.

He was married to Isabella E. Grenier apparently about the same year he came to Litchfield (1870).

He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge organized in Forest City, Meeker county, May 18, 1867, and was a member of the Presbyterian faith.

His last courtesy card was published in the **News Ledger** December 25, 1873. At that time a news item stated he was in Atlanta, Georgia, for the winter.

He was listed as president of the Litchfield Village Council in 1873.

June 11, 1874, he was stated to be practicing in Wisconsin.

News Ledger, August 10, 1876—(news item)

"An infant child of Dr. G. W. and I. E. Weisel died of dysentery on Sunday, July 23rd, and was buried in Valley City, North Dakota, on the following Monday. She was a lovely babe of 19 months. The doctor and his estimable wife have the sympathies of all who know them. Dr's. native home is Williamsport, Pennsylvania."

No further information seems available. Apparently he moved to Valley City, North Dakota.

DR. ERNEST HILDEBRANT

Within a few years of the time Dr. Kennedy returned from the Civil War, we find Dr. Ernest (or Ernst) Hildebrandt settling in Forest City in 1869.

Dr. Hildebrandt was a large strong man, blue-eyed, brown haired, well dressed, six feet tall and weighing about 200 pounds, and wearing a goatee beard. He was possessed of a strong German accent and stated that he had been "once or twice in the army" and was "familiar with gunshot wounds." He drove a single horse and buggy chiefly in making his calls and was liked and respected by all who knew him.

He was born in Germany November 5, 1829. He had been educated in Germany at the University of Jena, 1849, and had practiced in Erfurt, Germany, previous to 1868. He came overseas in a sailing ship in that year and located in Watertown, Minnesota, remaining there until about 1870. He arrived in Forest City, Meeker county, according to his own statement in 1869. He was listed in the Minnesota Medical Directory of 1890 in Forest City and legally authorized to practice under the Years of Practice Act. The transactions of the Minnesota Medical Society reveal him "Licensed by Exemption" No. 845 March 27, 1884, with his address Forest City.

He was described by one of the early settlers of that community as a "pill doctor" and probably did not conduct as many surgical procedures as some of his competitors. He had his office in the home and a library of his own. He was friendly and kindly, a member of the Lutheran church, and interested in reading and music. His military record is unobtainable but it is reasonable to assume that it took place in Germany with none in the United States forces.

He was married to Emily Louise Conrad who was born in Germany February 24, 1830. The marriage date is not known. Eight children were born of this union, and it would seem all arrived before his coming to Forest City. They are: Odelia (Mrs. Jake Burfenning), who had two children, Forest City, Minnesota; Minnie (Mrs. P. Schafer), five children, St. Paul, Minnesota; Anna (Mrs. Henry Lawson), two children, St. Paul, Minnesota; Lena (Mrs. Henry Lenhard), Darwin, Minnesota; Mary (Mrs. C. J. Johnson), one child Louisa (Edwards), Watkins, Minnesota; William, a miller, Forest City, Minnesota, three girls; Robert, a mechanic, two boys and one girl, St. Paul, Minnesota; Max, a mechanic, three boys and one girl, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

All of his children are dead, but many grandchildren and great grandchildren are living. A grand nephew, Walter, has been a student at the University of Minnesota Medical College.

Mrs. Hildebrandt died April 4, 1896, and was buried in Forest City, Meeker county, cemetery. Dr. Hildebrandt died in Forest City on March 17, 1913, of cerebral hemorrhage and is buried at Forest City.

He and his brother conducted a grist and flour mill at Kingston for some time on their early arrival, but evidently he sold to his brother; though his son later took over a flour mill at Forest City.

His testimony as a medical witness in a murder trial which took place in Forest City in 1873 and whose principals were neighbors was clear and logical, particularly as to entrance and exit of the bullet, and did much to assist the court in meting out justice. The entire transcription has been read by myself, and the violence resulted from a dispute over land.

The early records show a Hildebrandt as county coroner, which was a son, William.

The doctor was practicing medicine actively in 1887, 1897, and 1898, as his signature is found on official records in our courthouse.

The **Independent** of August 30, 1884, has this to say in a Forest City news column:

"Dr. Hildebrandt has been visiting the Cities the past few days in a professional way. From the teams which we see hitched in front of the doctor's office every day, we should judge that he had a rushing practice."

Independent, January 13, 1885—
"Dr. Hildebrandt seems to be on the road much of the time during the severe weather we have been having."

Independent, January 27, 1885—
"Dr. Hildebrandt's young folks were down visiting their friends near Darwin last week."

Independent, February 3, 1885—
"Dr. Hildebrandt started for the Cities one day this week. He expects to be absent until some time next week."

Independent, October 5, 1886—
"William Hildebrandt (son) is a Republican delegate from Forest City to the Meeker County Republican committee."

Word of mouth and history available gives us the overall picture of a kindly, hard-working physician who gave the pioneers ever-ready services for their needs and left a fine group of progeny to carry on life's duties.

DR. FRANK BISSELL

Dr. Frank Elmore Bissell (or Bissel) was a regular physician locating in Litchfield in 1871. He was born in Hartford, Wisconsin, December 27, 1845, being the first male child born in Washington county of that state. His parents were Cyrus and Amanda (Case) Bissel, natives of Connecticut, and came to Washington county, were earliest settlers of that region. They were farmers, but the doctor entered a drug store at an early age and remained in the druggist's employ for five years.

When eighteen he enlisted in the U. S. Navy and served on a U. S. gunboat on the Mississippi River and was in a number of minor engagements. His work was surgeon's steward. He was mustered out July 9, 1865, the doctor then went to Cleveland, Ohio, and that winter entered the Charity Hospital College, from which he graduated in the spring of 1869. He first began practice in Clinton Junction, Wisconsin, but moved to Litchfield in 1871. In the spring of 1878 he moved to Cold Spring, Minnesota, and was elected to the State Legislature from that county (Stearns) the same autumn; and upon finishing his term in the spring, he returned to Litchfield and remained. He had operated a drug store in Cold Spring.

January 19, 1875, Dr. Bissell was married to Miss Addie F. Simons of New York. Two children, Emily S. and Frank S., arrived November, 1875, and October, 1878, respectively.

The family were prominent Episcopalians, and the doctor was prominent in civic affairs, state politics, and the G.A.R. He was elected to the village council in 1880 and mayor in 1860. He was a member of the Minnesota State Medical Association and president of the pension examining board. He was a charter member and officer of E. Branham post of the G.A.R. and a charter member of Frank Daggett post No. 35 of the G.A.R. as well as commander one year. He was a surgeon of this latter post for years; he was medical director of Minnesota Department, G.A.R., two years; he was a member of Golden Fleece Lodge No. 89 A.F. A.M. and of Robboni Chapter No. 37 R.A.M.

Dr. Bissell also served as village health officer seventeen years and was president of the Crow River Medical Society. He was president of the Meeker County Republican committee in 1880. He also served as resident surgeon to the Old Soldiers Home at Minnehaha Falls.

Mrs. Bissel was also very active in social circles, serving as Worthy Matron of Fidelity O.E.S. and Grand Matron. She also was president of the Department of Minnesota W.R.C.

News items of then current files disclose many angles of interest:

News Ledger, June 4, 1872—

"Dr. Bissel's bid to furnish medical attendance on the county poor was accepted and the county auditor was instructed to make a written contract with him at rates mentioned in his bid. Satisfactory bonds to be furnished and the board to reserve the right to annul the contract for incompetency or other proper cause. (The doctor sued for his fee, won, and the case was appealed and denied.)"

News Ledger, December 18, 1873—

"Dr. Bissel of this village and Dr. V. P. Kennedy have put their heads together and are now doctoring the sick in partnership. Dr. Kennedy is an old resident of this county and skilled physician and he and Dr. Bissell will have all the practice they can wish for."

News Ledger, January 19, 1875—

"Dr. F. E. Bissell and Miss Addie F. Simons were married at Trinity Episcopal Church, the first public wedding in the new church. The Rev. T. G. Crump officiated."

News Ledger, December 9, 1881—

"Dr. Bissel is visiting schools today and tomorrow to give smallpox vaccinations."

News Ledger, January 19, 1881—

"Dr. Bissel operated strangulated hernia. Dr. Stuart assisted him.

"Drs. Bissel, Barr, and Newlands operated on a boy for skull fracture in the Litchfield House. He died six hours later."

News Ledger, August 23, 1884—

"Drs. Bissel, Chapman, and Laughton held a post mortem examination in the case of Mrs. Asher and found, as Dr. Bissel had previously said, that she died of cancer of the stomach."

Among the other news items are some to the effect that he captained one team of a hunting contest in 1883. (His team was defeated.)

Independent, March 4, 1885—

"He and Dr. McCollum of Dassel extracted a cap from a finger which had been present twelve years. In the operation a new anesthetic was used, applied locally."

Independent, June 4, 1889—

"Two runaways of Dr. Bissell's team this week. The second time they ran into Lake Ripley."

News Ledger, February 4, 1886—

"On his return from Darwin last night, where he had been called to suture an artery in a leg, Dr. Bissel had quite a cold experience. He got a mile or two this side of Darwin, when in the blinding snow, the horses wandered from the road, and for over three hours the doctor drove around over the prairie before he was able to find the road. During that time he was tipped out into the snow four times, and one of the times his team very nearly got away from him. With the mercury down among the thirties (below), the wind blowing a gale, and the snow flying in blinding clouds, such an experience would be no pleasant joke for any man. When the doctor finally reached home, he was thoroughly numbed and almost speechless from cold."

"Dr. Bissell was entered on the Office Register of Physicians with License No. 565 dated January 26, 1884.

News Ledger, August, 1901—

"Dr. Bissell Appointed.

"Dr. Bissell was last Tuesday appointed surgeon by the trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Minnehaha to succeed Dr. O. S. Pine who has held the position for several years. The doctor will assume charge about September 1st and later will be joined by his family. Dr. Bissel is a man of many years experience in the medical line, and he will no doubt fill this important place to the satisfaction of all. He is an old soldier and a member of the post of this place. He is receiving congratulations from all sides."

This is the last news item available.

One of our present older settlers tells me that Dr. Bissel died "some place away." He believes that he was married a second time but states that inasmuch as Dr. Bissel had an invalided brother, O. A. Bissel, living with him, this brother may have married this widow, Mrs. Collier.

He further states that the doctor was good sized, round faced, with a handle-bar moustache and dark hair. He was pleasant, a good mixer, and a very conscientious and hard worker. His picture in the local G.A.R. Hall discloses these features.

DR. J. S. BELL

Dr. J. S. Bell was one of the earlier physicians to arrive in Litchfield. He was a homeopath and probably arrived in Litchfield in May or June of 1872. His courtesy card first appeared in the **News Ledger** of that year July 11 and reads as follows: "Dr. J. S. Bell—Surgeon and Homeopathic Physician."

News Ledger, July 11, 1872—
"Excursion train wreck at Howard Lake coming from Minneapolis June 10, 1872. Dr. Bell of this village was one of those who escaped unhurt and he set himself at work immediately to aid those who were injured."

News Ledger, July 2, 1872—
"Col. Hancock in behalf of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad settled the doctor's bills occasioned by the late accident."

I have no further direct information but thanks to Dr. Rosenthal of St. Paul and Mrs. Guthrey of Rochester we learn this:

He came to Rochester in September of 1871. Mrs. Guthrey quotes the history of Homeopathy of 1880. "Dr. J. S. Bell went to Rochester in 1869; went to Litchfield in 1873." Mrs. Guthrey points out that this is incorrect. She also quotes the **Rochester Post,** December 27, 1873, as to his departure from Litchfield. The items states that "Dr. J. S. Bell, formerly of Rochester, more recently of Litchfield, was in Rochester during the week. The doctor is seeking a more satisfactory and congenial climate."

His last courtesy card appeared in the **Litchfield News Ledger** December 25, 1873.

DR. SAMUEL BARR

Dr. S. L. Barr had a courtesy card appear in the **News Ledger** of October 18, 1876, as previously noted. Apparently he arrived at about this time and did cooperate with the other physicians to a considerable degree, assisting with operations. He did have letters printed in the newspapers in independent manner to establish his talents and charges before the public as previously noted.

I will quote a few further items from the newspapers:

News Ledger, June 19, 1879—
"Married: Dr. S. L. Barr to Miss Ada Benjamin of Iowa."

News Ledger, February 26, 1880—
"The Deaf to Hear.
"If I cannot make the deafest man in Meeker county hear without the use of an ear trumpet, or shouting loud enough to wake the dead, it will be for the reason that the nerve of hearing is dead. Come and try it.
Dr. S. L. Barr—Over Post Office"

News Ledger, April 14, 1881—
"Dr. S. L. Barr ordered all children vaccinated."

News Ledger, September 15, 1881—
"Samuel L. Barr, M.D. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is now in Litchfield to remain indefinitely. He has made a specialty of women's diseases besides those of eye and ear, and in fact, of every disease the human system is heir to and has been successful in his treatment as thousands are willing to testify. Office over Brill's drug store."

News Ledger, March 22, 1883—(news item)
"Dr. Barr's professional card appeared in the **Minneapolis Tribune** of last week. Glad to see Doc come to the front."

Dr. Barr's last professional card appears in the **News Ledger** of May 31, 1883. He evidently moved to Minneapolis.

Dr. Rosenthal states October 22, 1951, that there was no professional record in Minnesota Medical Association files of his having been licensed. He may have procured a license elsewhere or may not.

DR. CHARLES A. McCOLLOM

Dr. Charles A. McCollom was Dassel's first physician, arriving there in 1871 and December 1, 1887, selling his practice to Dr. J. F. Kauffman of Newburg, Pennsylvania, for $250.00. He then moved to Minneapolis. In the transactions of the Minnesota Medical Society he was listed as Charles A. McCollom.

He was a graduate of Rush Medical College in 1868; his Minnesota Medical License No. 797 was granted February 6, 1884. A regular, he was in the Directories since 1890 as residing in Minneapolis. He was reported by the American Medical Association as having been born in Binghamton, New York, on July 2, 1847. He was licensed in California in 1918 and died at Pasadena, California, January 22, 1926 He was formerly connected with the Medical Department of Hamline University.

Dr. Karl Danielson states: "He was a sincere Christian and was active in the religious, social, and civic life of the community. He served as village recorder of Dassel and as County Commissioner of Meeker county from 1878 to 1880. He bought and ran a drug store in Dassel in 1880 and sold to Mr. Rudberg in 1883.

Litchfield Ledger, August 28, 1873—(Dassel News)
"Dr. McCollom is busy erecting a new office and in a short time will in company with a Mr. Bell start a drug store here."

News Ledger, January 8, 1879—

""Dr. McCollom of Dassel is chairman of the Meeker county Board of Commissioners this year."

News Ledger, August 22, 1881—

"Dr. McCollom was one of four delegates from Meeker county to the Minnesota State Republican Convention."

News Ledger, March 20, 1884—

"Dr. C. A. McCollom of Dassel is the secretary of the Pension Board of this local district." (Drs. Bissel of Litchfield and Kee Wakefield of Hutchinson were the other members).

News Ledger, July 22, 1886—

"Dr. McCollom of Dassel was appointed by Gov. Hubbard as one of the delegates to the National Conference of Charities held in St. Paul, and he attended that gathering last week."

Independent, December 10, 1886—(Dassel News)

"Dr. Charles A. McCollom is about selling out preparatory to moving to Minneapolis. He will leave a large practice and many will regret his departure. It will be an opening for someone well qualified to treat those in need of medical skill."

Dr. McCollom did move to Minneapolis as before noted and conducted his office in the Masonic Temple building at 6th and Hennepin with his residence at 6th Avenue North. In 1890 he became Medical Director for the Modern Woodmen of Minnesota and held this position for a number of years. He retired from practice (?) in 1918 and moved with his family to Carmel, California, which became their future home.

Dr. Edward J. Brown of the Minnesota State Board of Health in his "Reminiscences" published in 1925 and 26 is quoted: "Visiting Dassel November 12, 1884, he found Dr. C. A. McCollom there." "He was a former member of the Hennepin County Medical Society and later returned to Minneapolis and was at one time president of the Hennepin County Medical Society. Dr. McCollom died within the past year at Los Angeles."

"At Dassel, they hunted strenuously, and with some success, for cases of variola. It was a cold day and they were obliged to satisfy their hunger by eating raw turnips, as preferrable to the opportunities we met at the houses on the route. The excellent oyster stew served by his good wife in the evening was some recompense."

There were similar news items of Dr. McCollom's medical and surgical treatments mentioned in local news columns, and they also mentioned how well he had done generally and the great disappointment in losing him to Minneapolis, (as indeed it was.)

DR. E. S. GIBBS

Dr. Elam Stiles Gibbs was a practitioner of the Regular school and apparently was induced to come to Litchfield to assist Dr. V. P. Kennedy during the years 1872-73, as we find their professional card together in the newspapers of that year. He came from Glencoe (McLeod county). No doubt Dr. Kennedy tried to obtain an assistant to handle his practice during his frequent absences. There is some confusion as to just what happened, but I would believe from the following newspaper reports that he separated from Dr. Kennedy in 1873 but practiced independently in Litchfield until about 1880 when he moved to Monticello, Minnesota.

News Ledger, January 1, 1874—

"Dr. E. S. Gibbs, formerly of Glencoe, has removed his family to Litchfield." [In another column we give what the **Register** (Glencoe) has to say about his leaving that place.] "In our small acquaintance thus far, we find him a gentleman and a first class physician."

This paragraph from the **Glencoe Register** expressed extreme regrets at his leaving.

News Ledger, May 20, 1875—

"Dr. E. S. Gibbs has a card in another column. Doc. is ready night and day for all who may call on him."

Independent, August 3, 1886—

"Dr. E. S. Gibbs formerly a resident of this city but now residing at Monticello, is a brother of candidate for Governor, Gibbs."

Transactions of Minnesota Medical Society list Elam Stiles Gibbs as having been graduated from Charity Hospital Medical College, Cleveland, Ohio, 1869 and receiving a Minnesota Medical License No. 131 October 12, 1883. They listed him in Glencoe in 1872.

He was reported by the Minnesota Historical Society as practicing in Monticello in 1883. They also reported that Polks Directory of 1900 listed an E. S. Gibbs at Minneapolis.

Our Directories list him at Monticello from 1890 to 1909 and the A.M.A. Directory of 1927 listed him there.

The death certificate stated he was born May 1, 1847, in Pennsylvania and died August 3, 1922. when 76 years of age at Monticello, Minnesota, from a cerebral hemorrhage. Burial was at Geneva, Minnesota; information by Martha Gibbs, and certificate signed by F. E. Ellison, M.D.

The medical history of Freeborn county, Minnesota, lists an W. F. Gibbs born at Rome, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1847. He read medicine with Dr. A. C. Wedge. Dr. Wedge reported for him a case of Caesarian Section performed in that neighborhood by an old woman. His graduation college and date is correct, and he practiced in Geneva, Freeborn county, one year, evidently moving from there to

Glencoe and later Litchfield and then Monticello as outlined here. His middle initial must have been erroneously read from an E. S. to a W. F. in Freeborn county files.

DR. JAMES S. GIBSON

Dr. James S. Gibson (Regular) located in Atwater, Minnesota, one mile west of Meeker county's boundary about October 15, 1873, having left New London, Minnesota, at that time. He is listed here because from the beginning Atwater physicians have attended many patients in our county.

There are many excerpts in the regional news columns of his having attended patients for various illnesses, as we find concerning other doctors, but in some manner Dr. Gibson's cases revealed the most gruesome details of any I have read.

DR. C. L. ARMINGTON

News Ledger, January 1875—
"Dr. C. L. Armington of Minneapolis called on us Tuesday last. The doctor is hunting up a location and comes well recommended."

News Ledger, February 11, 1875—
"Dr. Armington has located in this village. He boards at McCarey's south side of the tracks. He is said to be an excellent physician."

News Ledger, July 8, 1875—
"Mrs. Hayford has been suffering with a severe attack of erysipelas in the face and eyes which made her blind for some time, but under the skillful care of Dr. Armington is getting better fast."

News Ledger, September 26, 1875—
"Dr. Armington left here on Tuesday for Terre Haute, Indiana, where he purposes to reside and fight chills and fever for the remainder of his natural life. Doc. says he loves Minnesota, but it is too healthy for his business."

I believe his story is well contained in the above squibbs.

DR. LYSANDER P. FOSTER

Dr. Lysander P. Foster, a Homeopathic physician located in Litchfield in May, 1875. The **News Ledger** states: "He has purchased the old schoolhouse and is fixing it up for a residence."

A. C. Smith's **History of Meeker County** lists him as one of the physicians of Litchfield in 1876.

Transcripts of Medical Society of Minnesota give this information:

Graduated, Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, 1882; Minnesota Medical License No. 131, October 12, 1883. Recorded address: 1890, Minneapolis. He apparently left Litchfield within a few years. Dr. Rosenthal records his death at 88 years of senility on April 7, 1924.

DR. C. J. ERICKSON

We have previously read his letter in the local **News Ledger** in response to one from Dr. V. P. Kennedy in regard to his license to practice the healing art.

News Ledger, March 30, 1882—
"Dr. Erickson of Grove City has sold out his Scandinavian paper to some young men who have been in his employ for a a year or two past."

Independent, June 17, 1884—(Grove City News)
"Dr. C. J. Erickson, former resident of this place, has now located in Minneapolis where he intends to practice his profession as a doctor. It is claimed that the doctor has reformed and become a good Christian and missionary. The latter statement is very doubtful, and is one of the biggest wonders of the nineteenth century if true."

DR. CHARLES WEINSMA

News Ledger, June 6, 1877—
"Dr. Weinsma, a young man who has lately located as a practicing physician at Forest City, publishes a card to that effect in another column of this issue."
Card: "C. Weinsma
Physician and Surgeon
Office at J. B. Atkinsons, Forest City"

News Ledger, October 31, 1878—
"Dr. C. Weinsma, who has been located at Forest City for the past year and a half has moved to Litchfield."

News Ledger, February 20, 1879—
"Dr. Weinsma published his directions for healing colds."

News Ledger, June 5, 1879—
"All For a Dog."
"Vick Weems and **Dr. Weinsma** had a slight difficulty over a dog. Some choice language was indulged in, when ye mighty doctor smote the vanquished Victor on the shoulder. Vick had him brought up before Judge Atkinson, and the Dr. was fined $5.00 and costs, the whole amounting to $13.95. The Doc not having the wherewithal to pay the same, a commitment was placed in the hands of Officer Hooser. W. W. Rollins came to his rescue, rather than see him go to jail. He now wishes he hadn't been quite so kind-hearted as the doctor forgot to fix the matter up with him before he started for foreign parts."

Independent, December 22, 1885—
"Dr. Weinsma, several years ago a resident practitioner in this city who left town rather suddenly (so much so in fact that he forgot to pay sundry bills), is now one of the leading physicians of Wheaton, Dakota Territory, and coroner of Richland county. His friends here will be glad to hear that he is prospering."

Transcripts from Minnesota Medical Association: "Weinsma, Charles; graduate of University of Utrecht, Holland, 1872; Minnesota Medical License No. 963, September, 1884; Regular." From Minnesota Directories: 1890—Winona, 1895—Bellingham; Deceased—Place of death was evidently Bellingham, but date is not given. No record in A.M.A.

DR. JAMES FAIR

Dr. James Fair probably practiced part-time in Paynesville (Stearns county) and Manannah (Meeker county). According to an "Old Settler," he had his office in the Manannah hotel in the 1880's and "went to Paynesville and died there."

[At this time lumbering, milling, the stagecoach and the buzz of settlement made this village Manannah on the banks of the Crow River in the northern part of the county, a center.—Ed.]

News Ledger, June 19, 1879—
"The oldest son of J. D. Amos has been dangerously ill the past week but is now recovering fast under care of Dr. Fair."

News Ledger, January 13, 1881—
"Dr. Fair treated the Manannah school teacher."

News Ledger, December 22, 1881—
"Dr. Fair is busy vaccinating the school children of this village."

News Ledger, June 8, 1882—
"Dr. Fair is doing a lively business. We saw him smiling this morning, something is up."

News Ledger, July 13, 1882—
"Dr. Fair, formerly of Manannah, has moved to Paynesville, so we are told."

News Ledger, February 29, 1884—
"Drs. Spencer and Fair are healing the sick as usual."

Independent, August 23, 1884—
"Dr. Fair testified in a gunshot wound received by Owen Gibney in neck and back by his father. He is a practicing physician residing (sic) in Manannah."

Independent, March 23, 1886—
"Dr. Fair attended Shaughnessy with Dr. Newlands of Litchfield and amputated his left arm which was shattered by goose shot fire by one Tom Walch. Gangrene set in and Shaughnessy died."

No information is available in Minnesota Medical Records on Dr. Fair. The Old Settler tells me he was tall and skinny, wore a moustache and chin whiskers, and married a widow in later years.

DR. C. B. SPENCER

Dr. C. B. Spencer first appears in the news items of the **Litchfield Ledger,** June 19, 1879:

"Dr. Spencer has finally been compelled to rent an office and go into practice. When he first came to this place, he gave it out that he did not intend to practice and would not. But one after another, cases have accumulated upon his hands, until he is kept busy most of the time. He has his office over Brill's drug store."

The Old Settler states that Dr. Spencer was in Manannah before Dr. Fair.

News Ledger, December 22, 1888—

"A patient was made happy by skillful treatment by a Dr. Spencer." Signed by Charles E. Garrison, Post Master, Roseville, Kandiyohi County. "Treatment and medicine cost $35.00, cured his palsy."

News Ledger, August 11, 1881—

"It is with pleasure that we announce the recovery of Mrs. M. Buckley under the skillful treatment of Dr. Spencer of Litchfield."

News Ledger, January 4, 1883— (Courtesy Card)

"Physicians: Spencer, C. B.
Office on 3rd Street, West of McLane's Store."

News Ledger, February 29,—(Manannah News)

"Dr. Spencer and Fair are healing the sick as usual."

Independent Review, May 20, 1884—(Manannah News)

"Mrs. Rosie Phillips was stricken with acute rheumatism of the heart and stomach. Dr. Spencer was called, and at 6:00 p.m. she was up and about and ready for her rations."

Independent, January 13, 1885—

"Dr. Spencer of Manannah is building a furnace in Rodalph's blacksmith shop to melt ore."

News Ledger, January 8, 1885—

"Doc Spencer showed us some specimens of gold from the Manannah mining district; there is no doubt that it is the pure root of all evil, and the only question is whether it can be found in paying quantities. Doc says he intends to thoroughly test the matter as soon as possible."

Independent, February 3, 1885—

"If Spencer's gold mine is a success . . . ."

Independent, October 26, 1885—

"Dr. Spencer's chimney caught fire and burned his house down. He will rebuild."

Independent, January 4, 1886— Grove City News)

"Doc Spencer suddenly pulled stakes last Wednesday and emigrated only with the promise to return here again in May."

No more news items re Dr. Spencer could be found nor a Minnesota Registration.

DR. A. H. CARVILL

Dr. A. H. Carvill, Kingston, 1866-1873. In the history and biography of Meeker county we find it stated that Dr. A. H. Carvill and his brother Jefferson had taken up the millsite in 1866, put up a sawmill and gristmill which constituted the entire business of this place. In 1873 the doctor sold out to John Norgren and the firm was then operated under the name of Carvill and Norgren, Jefferson Carvill sole proprietor, but the firm then became silent due to litigation.

At that time Jefferson Carvill receives credit for laying out the town of (East) Kingston.

Dr. A. H. Carvill testified in the trial of G. W. Donohue (sic) (Donovan), accused of the murder of James Flynn, with logic. According to Dr. Rosenthal, Dr. Carvill died at age 90 on November 3, 1933, of cerebral arteriosclerosis.

As to his exact status as a true physician, we cannot be sure, for we find nothing more of a medical nature than the fact that he testified in the trial of James Flynn, who was killed by gunshot wound, and his testimony was not of a definite scientific nature.

DR. WESTCOTT

News Ledger, February 24, 1881—(Dassel News)

"Mrs. Simon Pratt who has been suffering so long with rheumatism is now improving under the skillful care of our esteemed citizen Dr. Westcott. Electric treatment is now employed."

Quack?—Ed.

DR. JAMES CAMPBELL

News Ledger, September 8, 1881—

"Dr. James Campbell, M.D. of Hartford, Connecticut, will visit Litchfield September 18 and remain ten days. He has made a specialty of women's diseases and has been successful in the treatment of such. Any desiring to consult him or receive treatment will find him fully prepared to give the same. For further particulars, inquire of F. V. DeCoster (musical instruments and sewing machines. (Dr. Campbell a brother of Mrs. DeCoster.—Ed.)"

DR. L. HALL

In October 27, 1881, we find the **Litchfield News Ledger** carrying the following two items, viz:

"Notice: Dr. L. Hall, Homeopathist and Electric Physician has permanently located in Litchfield and is prepared to treat any and all cases that may be submitted to him. Office at present at E. B. Scofield's Residence. L. Hall, M.D."

Another place in the same edition we find:

"Rev. L. Hall resigned the position of pastor of the M. E. Church some time since, and last evening a meeting of the church people was held, at which the presiding elder was present. It was requested of the meeting that Rev. Hall fill the pulpit of the M. E. Church until a man could be found to take the same. This Mr. Hall has consented to do. He will continue his practice of medicine just the same, reports to the contrary notwithstanding."

We find in the **News Ledger** of December 15, 1881:

"Notice: Dr. L. Hall, Homeopathist and Electric Physician, has permanently located in Litchfield," etc.

There are no further news items or reports except:

"Dr. Hall leaves this week for Chicago to attend the winter course of lectures at Hahnemann Medical College. Before his departure his many friends in Litchfield presented him with an elegant silver water pitcher costing between $20.00 and $30.00 as a token of their esteem and friendship. Accompanying the same with the hope that he make his permanent home in this place."

News Ledger, (same date) December 22, 1881—

"Dr. Hall who had arranged to leave for Chicago today is unexpectedly detained and will stay until Monday next."

No further news of Dr. Hall (Ed.), but impression is that he was continuing an unfinished course in homeopathy there at Hahnemann.

DR. KEE WAKEFIELD

Dr. Kee Wakefield of Hutchinson, Minnesota, was a very active and conscientious practitioner of McLeod county during the 1880's. He was a charter member of the Crow River Medical Society and a member of the local Pension Committee. On August 20, 1889, he was delegated to examine local candidates for West Point. Further details of his career should be furnished by McLeod county. His progeny were rather striking people to my personal knowledge and acquaintance.

DR. GRANVILLE IRA SMART

Dr. Smart, Regular, practiced in Grove City during the year 1881, not, evidently, for a very long time. Dr. Roscoe C. Hunt has written up his biography in "Pioneer Physicians of Fairbault County." He spent most of his years of practice in Blue Earth City, Minnesota.

Dr. Smart was born in Fryborg, Maine, November 14, 1853. He graduated from Fryborg Academy and attended Bardon's College, Burnsvick (Brunswick—Ed.), Maine. He taught school between semesters; graduated from Dartmouth Medical School in 1880; remained in Blue Earth City until 1901. Because his health was poor, he removed to Ontario, California, where he practiced until his death in 1906. He was a Mason and a member of the Methodist church. He had six children, three living in 1942, one (Elliot) a physician at Murphys, California.

Minnesota Directory 1890: Blue Earth, and there registered until he died.

DR. THERON H. BLY

On Dr. Theron H. Bly, Regular, the **Litchfield News Ledger** carries this September 4, 1882:

Courtesy Card:

"Dr. Theron H. Bly, Physician and Surgeon
Grove City, Minnesota
Night calls promptly responded to."

News Ledger, June 15, 1882—

"Among the professional cards will be found that of Dr. T. H. Bly who has lately located at Grove City."

His last professional card in the **Litchfield News Ledger** appears October 18, 1883, and his address is Grove City then.

Independent, December 16, 1884—(Manannah News)

"Dr. Bly has his store building at Paynesville about ready for drugs."

News Ledger,—1885—

"Dr. Bly practicing from Paynesville on Manannah patients."

News Ledger, June 31, 1888—

"The people of Paynesville are trying hard to get some good man to go there and take the drug store lately left an orphan by Dr. T. H. Bly, who years ago was located at Grove

City for a short time. This small speciman of a man, who by some hook or crook was permitted to attach the handle Dr. to his name, left Paynesville between two days because he could not withstand the temptation to sell poor whiskey without a license, and the iron clutches of the law were trying to fasten themselves upon him. He deserted a wife and one child, and we are informed that since his departure, the wife has disappeared, leaving the child to the cold charities of strangers, leaving the word that the doctor would come back and take care of his own young one. The doctor's present whereabouts is a mystery, but if he ever dies and anybody asks us to tell where he is likley to find him, we will direct them to the bottommost pit of Sheol."
Independent, June 29, 1886—(News Item)

"Manannah News: Dr. Bly and Ostrander were taken to St. Cloud by Sheriff Mickley last week charged with selling liquor without a license."

Editor Frank V. Cargill of the Directory of the A.M.A. offers this:

Records of the Directory Department were established in 1903, and of that time we attempted to obtain information on all physicians who were in practice since 1865.

We note that Theron H. Bly was listed in 1902 edition of Polks Medical Directory at Minneapolis. This book states that he graduated from the University of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1876, the University Medical College, Kansas City, Missouri, in 1893, and took special courses in diseases of women at the University Medical College, Kansas City, Missouri, in 1894.

He is listed as Medical Examiner at Westfield, Massachusetts, and also as Medical Examiner of A.O.U.W. and for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His specialty was diseases of women and was listed as the physician in charge of Dr. Bly's Sanitarium which apparently was located at 3009 Harriet Avenue, Minneapolis. His name does not appear in the first edition of the American Medical Directory which was issued in 1906, and apparently he died sometime between 1902 and 1906.

DR. WILLIAM E. CHAPMAN

Dr. William Chapman, Regular, was born in Hill, New Hampshire, February 9, 1857, and was educated in the schools of New Hampton, New Hampshire, and the University of Vermont at Burlington, Vermont; he graduated from the Medical Department of that institution in 1879.

He located in North Branch, Minnesota, and practiced there until 1882 when he came to Forest City and remained there until 1885. In December 28, 1882, he was married to Miss Georgia Kimball at Forest City by Rev. Charles W. Booth at the home of the bride's father, Edwin Kimball.

Quote: News Ledger —

"They will be at home to her friends until January 2, 1883, at the residence of her parents. No cards."

Further: "Dr. Chapman is a young man of sterling worth and well thought of in this section of the country, and his happy bride, Miss Georgia Kimball, is one of Meeker county's banner young ladies, having grown up at her home in Forest City. **The Ledger** hereby extends congratulations and well wishes, hoping that life may ever look as joyful to them as it did on their wedding day.—Doc-Shake!"

In 1885 Dr. Chapman moved to Litchfield where he has since been active and successful in the practice of his profession. By training and practice Dr. Chapman is ably qualified to administer to the needs of ailing humanity, and he has been successful in a measure quite beyond that often reached in a community this size. He is a member of the Minnesota State Medical Society and Crow River Medical Society and is affiliated with the Odd Fellows, Workmen and Woodmen Societies. Dr. Chapman was the son of John W. Chapman and Charlotte Toplin Chapman. No children were born to Dr. Chapman. Dr. Chapman was listed in the Minnesota Medical Directories in 1886 and 1890 as residing in Litchfield with License No. 778 dated January 26, 1884. His professional card appeared in the **News Ledger** in July, 1884, as physician and surgeon. **The News Ledger** went enough farther to announce in another column: "He is a first-class gentlemen and understands his business; we wish him unboundless success."

In 1864: "Dr. Chapman has moved his family to Litchfield."

December 14, 1884: "Dr. Chapman moved his office over McLane's (grocery) Store."

We note that both the Republican and Democratic papers carried the news of his arrival to Litchfield.

Many further news notes appeared certifying to his presence in our midst as a doctor, but no drastic illustrations of medical treatment and surgery were ever found. Dr. Chapman joined with Dr. G. A. C. Cutts shortly after the turn of century, and they practiced together in harmony until the death of Dr. Chapman by heart disease February 16, 1921.

Needless to say, many news items were published in the local papers in regard to Dr. Chapman's care of the sick. Further, I have the word of mouth from many of his patients who eventually came to my care that he was one of the finest. May I include the accolades of the nurses who knew him.

Dr. Chapman was rather small, wore a black moustache, seemed always rather polished and fine, was kindly, "Straight-laced" and aristocratic.

DR. G. A. C. CUTTS

Dr. G. A. C. Cutts was the son of Charles E. Cutts, an early pioneer Representative and Senator whom you remember had his contests with Dr. Kennedy. Your editor and compilor had the privilege of being associated as medical assistant to Dr. Cutts, who in turn was Dr. Chapman's partner after 1900. My personal opinion was that these men were fine.

DR. GEORGE NEWLANDS

Dr. George Newlands, Regular, practiced in Litchfield at least as early as 1886 at which time his professional card appeared in the **Litchfield News Ledger,** October 14 as physician and surgeon.

Dr. Rosenthal reports that he graduated from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons at Kingston, Ontario, probably also known as Queens University, Canada, 1879. He was licensed in Minnesota December 31, 1883, as a Regular physician, and his number was 656. The Directories of 1890 show him in Litchfield, Minnesota, Meeker county, and in 1895 Seattle, Washington. His death occurred there October 22, 1951, and was due to meningitis.

His first appearance in Meeker county is portrayed by his professional card appearing in the **News Ledger,** September 14, 1882:

"Drs. Kennedy and Newlands
Physicians and Surgeons"

We again find his presence in a courtesy card, January 4, 1883:

"Dr. George Newlands—Office on No. Marshall Ave.
Two doors So. of Methodist Church"

According to the **News Ledger** of November 15, 1883, he attended Ida Schnell who died.

W. R. Berens personally tells me he was vaccinated by him for smallpox in 1884 or 1886. According to the **News Ledger** he assisted in the operation on a skull fracture case about January 19, 1882, who died. April 12, 1883, we find his rooms moved over the post office. April 3, 1883, we find the allowance for care of county patients allotted to him by Meeker county in the amount of $184.50.

News Ledger, July 17, 1884—
"Dr. George Newlands of this city was married to Miss Lizzie Burdick (a local girl—Ed.) at St. Paul, July 8th. Messrs. George Becker and Hamlet Stevens and Mesdames Ross, Cootes, Jackson and Miss Moore were present from this city. The happy couple started the same day for the doctor's old home at Kingston, Canada. They will return to this city in a few days, when the numerous friends will have an opportunity to extend congratulations."

Independent, May 12, 1895—

"The arrival of a new daughter made Dr. and Mrs. Newlands happy on May 6th."

Independent, May 16, 1885—

"Dr. Newlands was elected to be a delegate to the Minnesota State Democratic convention."

We find Dr. Newlands in April, 1886, "building a new home and plastering under the roof."

Independent, January 25, 1887—

"Infant son of Dr. Newlands died of lung fever."

Independent, March 19, 1889—

"Dr. Newlands returned from a trip to the Puget Sound country and seemed to be favorably impressed with same."

News Ledger—

"Dr. Newlands will leave today for Seattle. His family will remain here for the summer."

Dr. Newlands was slender, dark, had a short beard, carried himself with dignity; was busy, well thought of, well dressed; had a well kept home; and drove nice horses. He belonged to the Episcopal church and was a Mason.

DR. ENOCH A. BAUM

We first hear of Dr. Baum in the **News Ledger** of February 7, 1884—

"E. A. Baum, well known in the neighborhood where he lives, to possess a sure cure for diphtheria, and also to be one of the the most successful opticians in the state, will visit Litchfield the last week in March, and stay several days, at which time he will teach parties how to treat diphtheria and will treat any case of sore eyes, or other chronic disorder. For further particulars, inquire at this office. References: Jas. Nelson, Thos. Ryckman, Staples Bros.—Manannah."

The Minnesota Medical Directory reports him licensed by exemption September 2, 1884, by affidavit of 1884; located at Litchfield where he continued to practice.

The A.M.A. reports that he died at 77 years of age in Fergus Falls State Hospital after a six year illness with brain disease. He was buried in Lake Ripley cemetery June 23, 1908, age given as 77; cause of death: anemia.

A son Clarence visited him frequently while he was in Litchfield, and an M. E. Baum, a son, was proprietor of the Litchfield House for years, starting about 1885.

Independent, October 9, 1888—(Greenleaf News)

"Dr. Baum was in town a few days last week."

News Ledger, October 18, 1888—

The first appearance of his courtesy card reads as follows: "Dr. E. A. Baum will treat all chronic diseases, sore eyes, female weakness, cancers in all forms, diseases of the skin venereal diseases. May be found at the Litchfield House the first week in each month."

This card not seen after October 1, 1889. However Dr. Baum signed death reports as attending physician in 1892, 93, 94, and 97.

News Ledger, April 8, 1897—

"Dr. Baum is 66 years of age and last Monday he was flying around town like a young colt let out to pasture, all on account of a baby boy that arrived at his home the night before and who will call him dad in the future."

Independent, July 11, 1899—

"Criminal Operation. Clara Olson dead from that cause says jury. Dr. E. A. Baum charged with being guilty of the crime.

"Last Wednesday morning at the rooms occupied as a residence and office by E. A. Baum in the Snell block, occurred the death of Clara Olson, daughter of Christian Olson of Acton town under circumstances that led to an examination and inquest by Coroner William Hildebrandt and a jury.

"A post mortem examination was made by Drs. Bissel, Robertson, and Chapman.

"In their opinion, an operation for abortion had been performed. Dr. Baum claims he was treating the girl for venereal disease. Dr. Baum has been implicated in one similar case heretofore in which the girl recovered. He is not a practitioner of any regular school of medicine but has been practicing for a good many years. He is an old man and has been living in the county since its early days.

"There has been no arrest as yet.

"The Verdict: 'Said Clara Olson died at the residence of E. A. Baum in Litchfield, Meeker county, Minnesota, on July 5, 1899, as the result of a criminal operation known as abortion, by the hands of E. A. Baum.' Signed (Jurors—names listed)."

Independent, July 18, 1899—

"Dr. Baum Arrested.

"Coroner Hildebrandt swore out a complaint against Dr. Baum last week and he was taken before Justice Bissel (not Dr. Bissel—Ed.) and admitted to bail in the sum of $500.00. Preliminary hearing for next Friday, 21st."

Independent, July 25, 1899—

"Accused bound over to Grand Jury. Bail fixed at $1,000. Defendent did not go on the stand in his own behalf."

Independent, November, 1899—

"Plea Not Guilty. No Trial Yet."

Independent, February 27, 1900—|Court Cases)

"Case of E. A. Baum was called. A jury secured about noon and the evidence on both sides took until the following noon. The case went to the jury in the afternoon, and they were out until the next morning when a verdict of "Not Guilty' was the result of their deliberations."

In 1902 a professional card is as follows: "Dr. E. A. Baum—Specialty Female Troubles."

Dr. Baum was a small man with scanty beard; he had a poor practice, carried a small doctor's bag, and travelled mostly on foot. He was a Presbyterian.

DRS. C. A. and A. P. WOODWARD

News Ledger, December 18, 1884—

"New Doctors. Drs. C. A. and A. P. Woodward, homeopathic physicians, have located in Litchfield for the practice of their profession. Dr. C. A. Woodward has for the past seven years been located at Glencoe, and is doubtless known to some of the southern residents of this county. His brother A. P. has for ten years been located at Cannon Falls. After looking the country over, they have decided upon this point to enter into the practice together and their office in the future will be over J. L. Wakefield's store. They are men of gentlemanly appearance and have each had years of experience. There is a large scope of country surrounding Litchfield that has no homeopathic representative and doubtless there are many who have faith in that branch of the practice of medicine who will heartily welcome their coming."

News Ledger, December 18, 1884—

"While at Wahpeton a short time ago, Drs. Woodward were requested to perform a surgical operation upon a boy who had had his leg crushed by a threshing machine. They amputated the leg and in so doing, Dr. C. A. got his right hand blood poisoned and came near losing his life. It began to affect his arm, but they succeeded in stopping its further progress. He is now carrying the injured hand in a sling."

News Ledger, December 18, 1884—(Professional Card)

"C. A. Woodward A. P. Woodward
Woodward Bros.
Homeopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Diseases of Women a Specialty
Office over Wakefield's Store"

Independent, February 3, 1885—

"Woodward Brothers, the homeopathic physicians, who established themselves here a few weeks ago, have already decided to leave. One will locate in Glencoe and the other in Hutchinson. They will depart today."

News Ledger, May 30, 1889—(Dassel News)

"Woodward Bros., Homeopathic physicians, advertise to be in Dassel the fore part of each week occupying parlors in the Dassel House."

DR. R. H. WOOD

Dr. R. H. Wood was listed in Forest City by the Medical Register in 1886. No news items are available. Perhaps he never arrived.

DR. J. H. BOWERS

The first note we have on Dr. J. H. Bowers, a homeopath, is found in the **Litchfield Independent** of July 14, 1885:

"Dr. J. H. Bowers of La Porte, Indiana, an experienced physician of the Homeopathic school was in town one day last week looking over the ground with the view of a permanent settlement. The doctor seems to be a fine gentleman and a man of considerable experience. He is well pleased with the town and country, and in all human probability, will be with us to stay here long.

The doctor has written since that he will be in Litchfield about July 22 or 25 to make it his permanent home. Will probably move into Mrs. Hart's home on the north side of the park."

Courtesy cards appeared in both papers:

"J. H. Bowers, M.D.
HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN
Litchfield, Minn.
Office at residence northwest
corner of Marshall Ave. & 4th Street"

April 27, 1886—**Litchfield Independent Review**

"The Dr. was called to Herman, Minnesota, to attend ill child."

September 12, 1886—**Litchfield Independent Review**

"Moved into house three doors north of Episcopal church."

April 26, 1887—**Litchfield Independent Review**

"Dr. J. H. Bower's wife's father, Nathaniel Pullman, died suddenly in Minneapolis. He had made many inventions in constant use in the railway business." (Pullman Sleepers)?

There were other notes in the papers on moving into a new house in 1888 and attending various patients.

Then the **Independent** of August 14, 1888, states:

"Dr. J. H. Bowers has decided to leave Litchfield and locate in Menomonee, Wisconsin. He is a reliable man and a good citizen and we are sorry to see him leave. Mrs. Bowers will remain a month or two."

News Ledger, August 16, 1888—

"Dr. J. H. Bowers left last week for Menomonee, Wisconsin, where he expects to establish himself for the future. The doctor is counted among the best of the Homeopathic school, is a good citizen and the well wishes of Litchfield follow him to his new home."

Dr. Bowers was listed in the Medical Record in Litchfield as of 1890 but no doubt moved before its publication. He was also listed in Herman, Minnesota, during the same year but marked as having removed from the state.

In 1895 he was listed in Renville, Iowa. In 1909, no address listed.

He died July 10, 1920, cause unknown.

DR. WILLIAM J. BAHNSEN

On Dr. William J. Bahnsen, Regular, the **Independent** of July 21, 1885, carries this item in Cedar Mills News:

"Dr. W. J. Bahnsen of Chicago arrived last Friday. His office at present is in the old store building. The doctor comes well recommended."

Dr. Rosenthal has uncovered a very interesting tale about this man. He was born July 30, 1858, in Hamburg, Germany, and came to the United States at the age of seven, living at first in Rock Island, Illinois. After getting some education, he tried his hand in some mercantile establishments. He started his medical education at the Medical College in Minneapolis where he remained one term. Then he attended a course of lectures at the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons. Following that, he took a course at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He returned to Chicago and graduated with honors from the Chicago Physicians and Surgeons College in 1885.

At this time he practiced in Cedar Mills, Meeker county, about one year.

Independent, July 28, 1885—

"Dr. Bahnsen dressed a wounded finger."

"Dr. Bahnsen took care of Eves and they are getting well."

Independent, September 8, 1885—

"Dr. Bahnsen had a meeting appointed for those afflicted with eye troubles, but could not attend to the cases as some ordered instruments and expected assistance did not arrive in time."

Independent, December 1, 1885—

"Dr. Bahnsen, the physician that stayed with us the last three months, left on Thursday for Chicago to complete his studies as an eye and ear specialist, and Dr. Vollmer came from Ohio to take his place as a resident physician. Dr. Vollmer is a German and comes highly recommended."

Dr. Rosenthal states that following his brief stay in Meeker county, Dr. Bahnsen went to Europe where he studied and worked some time; this should be about one and one-half years. He received diplomas from the Universities of Berlin and Heidelburg. He settled in Fisher, Polk county, in May, 1887. He was able in six months to establish a fine reputation in Fisher, especially as a surgeon. He had a fine personality and was a "natural born physician."

His untimely death was caused by being shot in the back of the head as he was getting on the train after making a country call near Fisher. This happened in August of 1890. At that time he had established his practice in Crookston. The assassin was apparently freed, and the reason for the attack is unknown. It was thought that he was taken after the assault to Grand Forks, North Dakota, and died there, but no death reports are available.

Dr. Bahnsen was the third of nine children and was survived by six siblings and his widow, who was Annie Elbie before her marriage to the doctor. There were no children.

DR. STILES S. SQUIRES

A news item of August 23, 1888, states: "Dr. S. S. Squires, a Homeopathist has located in this city and will fill the place made vacant by the departure of Dr. Bowers. Dr. Squires is a man of middle age, has had years of practical experience and appears to be a gentleman thoroughly posted in his work. His office will be at his residence in the Hart home, northeast corner of Central Park." His professional card appears in the same issue.

He was a member of the Prohibition Party and chairman of the Executive committee of the same for Meeker county. He was a delegate to the State Convention of the Prohibition Party.

He made trips to Manannah on Tuesday and Friday of each week in 1899.

He was licensed under the "Affidavit of Years of Practice Prior to 1887" and listed in Litchfield in 1898 in the Minnesota Directory. He was listed in the A. M. A. Directories 1886 to 1890 at Tracy, Lyon county, Minnesota. He was last listed at Newport, Washington, up until 1908.

The last appearance of his professional card appeared here in the **Litchfield Independent** on February 6, 1900.

He had a son who ran a confectionery store here.

He was described as short, gray haired, and wore square "whiskers." He belonged to the Methodist church and was quite a singer and reported to have been buried in Ripley cemetery, though I found no listing in the cemetery association records.

DR. J. VOLLMER

December 1, 1885—

"Dr. Vollmer arrived in Cedar Mills to take over the practice of Dr. Bahnsen who left for further study. He came from Ohio, was of German extraction, and probably educated in Germany. His work was much appreciated by his neighbors and patients."

Independent, December 8, 1885—

"Dr. Vollmer, assisted by Dr. Bahnsen, has performed a successful operation on Mrs. R. Martin, taking a large tumor out of her side. Mrs. Martin is doing as well as circumstances permits."

Independent, January 19, 1886—

"Dr. Vollmer unused to the ways of a cutter, upset in a snow bank and the horse ran away, but he hired a bobsled and finished making his call."

Independent, April 6, 1886—

"Dr. Vollmer was thrown from his buggy and badly hurt."

Independent, July 13, 1886—

"Dr. Vollmer treated a patient with a crippled foot."

Independent, September 21, 1886—

Speaking of the county fair: "And in some other departments, our productions are worth looking at, not the least noticeable is the nice bracket work of Dr. Vollmer. His bird cages, work boxes, picture frames, and other work are very fine. He is undoubtedly very industrious as he gives excellent satisfaction as a physician."

Independent, October 9, 1888—

"It has now become a certainty that we are to lose our doctor and his family. They will move to Hutchinson this week. We heartily recommend him to anyone in need of a physician. His intelligent and accomplished wife will be greatly missed in the social circles."

DR. EDWIN A. SKARO

Dr. Skaro, Regular, came to Dassel from Minneapolis but returned to Minneapolis in 1888. From word of mouth, he exhibited some peculiarities of personality and found Dassel unsuited for him.

Independent, March 22, 1887—(Courtesy Card)

"Dr. E. A. Skaro
Physician and Surgeon
Scandinavian Doctor
Office above Lion Drug Store
Dassel, Minnesota"

This card was missing on and after June 7, 1887.

Transcripts of Minnesota Medicine list him with Minnesota License No. 1320 issued March 12, 1887, and that he was a graduate of the Minnesota Hospital College of 1887. He was further listed in Minnesota Medical Directories in Dassel 1890 and Minneapolis in 1903 and 1909. He signed a death certificate in Meeker county in 1890 and 1899. He was not listed by the A.M.A.

DR. WILLIAM HAMBROER

Dr. William Hambroer, Eden Valley, graduated in 1883 from Bennett College of Eclectic Medicine and Surgery and evidently came to Eden Valley soon after. He was of German extraction. Polks Medical Directory listed him in Eden Valley in 1893. His signature appears on death certificates in 1889, 1891 and 1896.

In January, 1899, a news item describes his having finished three furnaces: one for his office, one for his home, and one for the Warner Hardware; so he evidently was something of an iron worker as a side line.

Another news item of April 1899 states that the doctor would need an assistant at present.

In April of 1899 we read that he "sold his residence and all his drugs, patent medicines, etc. to Mr. Williams, a druggist, who will take possession in the near future. The doctor will remain in Eden Valley and take life easy."

He retired in favor of Dr. Ridgeway in 1899 but continued to act in some capacity, for we read in February, 1903: "Dr. Hambroer, Health Officer of Eden Valley Village and Manannah township, publishes in the **Eden Valley Journal** a card prohibiting the holding of dances anywhere in the township on account of the prevalence of smallpox."

DR. JOHN HOWARD KAUFFMAN

As previously noted, Dr. Kauffman purchased Dr. McCollom's practice in Dassel in January of 1887 and remained there until 1911 when he removed to Currie, Minnesota.

He was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, October 28. 1859. He was the son of Henry and Mary (Wilkins) Kauffman. His father for many years operated a drug store in Newburgh, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. He received his early education locally and worked in his father's store, and on attaining his maturity was taken into partnership by his father. In the fall of 1881 he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, finishing two terms there, then entering the College of the City of New York. He returned to Newburgh, Pennsylvania, and practiced and conducted the drug business until 1887 when he sold out intending to start practice in Dakota Territory. On reaching Minneapolis he changed his mind and went to Dassel.

Excerpts from the Municipal Progress 1899 give us this: "Dr. Kauffman enjoys an extensive patronage throughout this and adjoining counties; he is a thorough believer in the future of Dassel and is the owner of some of the most valuable and desirable business and residence property in the village. He is a worthy example of the medical profession, an esteemed citizen, a note worthy practitioner, and an ardent friend to social and municipal progress. Although a most busy man, Dr. Kauffman finds time to promote the best interests of Dassel. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and a Shriner and a member of I.O.O.F., and K.P. fraternities."

He possessed Minnesota Medical License No. 1400 dated May 11, 1887 (by diploma) and Minnesota Basic Science Certificate No. 2466 dated January 10, 1927 (by previous licensure). He is listed in our Medical Directories in Dassel from 1890 through 1909 and in 1928 in Currie, Minnesota.

Independent, 1887—
"Dr. Kauffman is caring for diphtheria cases."

Independent, April 18, 1889—
"Dr. Woodward has left Dassel for Minneapolis. Dr. Kauffman is moving over the store of Oslund and Leighton."

News Ledger, August 8, 1889—
"We learn that Mr. Steele who is studying with Dr. Kauffman will, when he completes his college course, become a partner of Dassel's popular doctor. Mr. Steele seems particularly adapted to that profession."

Independent, April 3, 1888—
"Dr. Kauffman's wife arrived from the East."

News Ledger, April 5, 1892—(Courtesy Card)
"Dr. John H. Kauffman
Physician and Surgeon
Dassel, Minnesota."

News Ledger, May 27, 1897—
"Dr. J. H. Kauffman is attending a typhoid patient."
News Ledger, March 9, 1898—
"Dr. J. H. Kauffman was elected president of the City Council of Dassel at the recent election."
News Ledger, April 5, 1898—
"Dassel merchants are fast selling out. Week before last R. F. Case, druggist, one of the oldest businessmen of Dassel, sold his whole outfit to Dr. J. H. Kauffman who immediately took possession. Consideration, $5,500, including dwelling house as well as store."

Dr. Kauffman has been described as fine looking, single, a great beau, highly thought of. Gossip has it that his office girl committed suicided over him. Certainly he was married, inasmuch as the arrival of his wife is noted in the newspaper in 1888. There were no children.

Dr. Kauffman died January 7, 1933, in St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, at 74 years of age from mesenteric thrombosis and intestinal obstruction of two days duration. Funeral services were under auspices of Ancient Landmark Lodge No 5 A.F. & A.M. of St. Paul, and interment was made in Oakland cemetery, St. Paul.

DR. MUMSFORD

A Dr. Mumsford, Kimball, Minnesota, signed a death certificate for a patient in Meeker county. This was the first officially filed record in our present court house.

DR BOECKMAN

We also find Dr. Boeckman of St. Paul signing death certificates in 1889 and 1890. I believe it was common to have a consultant such as Dr. Boeckman, or some other prominent physician from the Twin Cities, come to the bedside and assist in care of the case, and if exodus occurred, he would sign the death certificate.

DR. CARROL C. CARPENTER

There seems to be a difference of opinion about this doctor. Some thought he had no more license than that of a chiropractor.

In the Minnesota Medical Transcripts four men were licensed as follows:

Albert J., December 31, 1883
George A., April 20, 1885
George W., November 22, 1884
T. S. January 8, 1885

Inasmuch as we see no C. C. Carpenter listed as a practitioner before 1900 and again inasmuch as Dr. C. C. Carpenter came to our community in 1890, we are compelled to believe that he was not a regular practitioner.

One of our personal acquaintances has already stated that he was probably not a regular practitioner. Another of our close friends of the older school has stated that in his opinion he was of the chiropractic school and that his wife left him and they were divorced.

He had an upstairs office and was of quite professional appearance. However, he didn't do very well and went to Minneapolis, but probably returned to Litchfield again after 1900.

News Ledger, October 21, 1914—(An Announcement)

"To correct what seems to be a general opinion that I am limiting my practice to some specialty, I wish to make the following statement: I am a graduate of the Minnesota Medical College of 1897; and after being in general practice for ten years, I took four months of resident hospital work in surgery and obstetrics and again resumed general practice today.—Dr. C. C. Carpenter, Litchfield, Minn."

The old settler states: "Because of baby cases he was run out of town."

DR. HENRY E. CASSEL

In the Dassel News January 31, 1888: "Dassel has a new doctor, one Cassel by name, but of his efficiency we know nothing." On July 12, 1888: "Dr. Cassel has located in Cokato."

After moving to Cokato he made weekly visits to Dassel. His address given on a death certificate filed in 1889 was Cokato. He moved to Litchfield apparently in the early spring of 1899. His professional card first appeared in the **Independent,** April 11, 1899, and read as follows:

"Dr. Cassel
Scandinavian Physician and Surgeon
Calls answered promptly day or night
Office over Johnson, Larson and Wanvig's store
Will be absent in the East until May 5th"

Independent, April 18, 1899—

"Dr. Cassel left Wednesday for New York to be gone until May 5th. He goes to get pointers on anything that is new in the practice of medicine."

Independent, May 15, 1888—

"He was elected to be county Democratic delegate to the State Democratic Convention."

Independent, December 28, 1897—

"Dr. Cassel is making no progress toward recovering from his mental troubles according to advices received from the Fergus Falls Hospital. He is continually writing letters, and these show plainly his unsoundness of mind."

Rumor has it that this was caused by grief over being refused his hand in marriage. He did, however, recover apparently completely, as he became a very active and famous surgeon during the next decade in Litchfield. Many times he was called in to the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis to do

or assist in doing surgery of very complicated type for the times, sometimes being accompanied by Dr. Karl A. Danielson, residing in Litchfield, as his assistant.

Dr. Danielson states that Dr. Cassel was educated in his native country of Sweden, where he had mingled with the aristocracy and nobility and spoke the Swedish language perfectly. He was very popular in the community, because of his exceptional ability, as there were other personal characteristics of a derogatory nature.

He weighed well over three hundred pounds and as a gourmet, glutton, and connoisseur of brandy had no rival other than perhaps the famous Henry VIII of England. He, however, unlike Henry, was only married once; his wife was a Scandinavian nurse from Kingston or Dassel, and she survived him one year, meeting a tragic death when her clothes became saturated with gasoline and were ignited, presumably by herself. She was buried in Ripley cemetery, Litchfield, December 12, 1912.

Many are the tales told of him: due to his enormous size and ready wit and sarcasm, he no doubt will be the outstanding personality in Meeker county's medical history. He employed a driver always, in the horse and buggy days, and many times had to have an entire seat to himself. What a figure this must have presented to the populace! When the automobile came in, he was one of the pioneer owners; and as the steering bar in those days took the place of the present wheel, he had to sit on the opposite side, for there wasn't room for him between the bar and the back of the seat. At one time he overshot a corner in this automobile and it turned over, tipping him on his back in a marsh. He could not extricate himself alone, but soon a passerby assisted him out. He used his characteristic phrase in greeting the helper, "Khristamighty, would you see me drown?"

Another time, while drinking Three Star Hennessey and "Appolinaris Water" after hours with a close friend in the back room of a drug store, the friend in the hope of getting some free medical advice kept plying him with the brandy. His keenness being unaffected, he remarked, "Kristamighty are you trying to drink the doctor, drunk?"

When in a grocery store one evening making some purchases, a man approached him and showed him an infected finger and asked, "What shall I do about this?" His reply: "Vell, I should see a good doctor."

It has been reported that if he had a particularly difficult surgery to do, he did much better by fortifying himself with a half tumbler of brandy just beforehand.

One time in a group of men, one asked him, "Doc, just how much do you weigh?" His answer: Kristamighty, are you a cattle buyer?"

In the A.M.A Register of 1884 his name is listed Cassel, Karl H. E., now called Dr. Henry E. Cassel formerly Karl Henry E. Castle.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota as M.D. in 1883 and carried Minnesota License No. 597 dated December 31, 1883, by exemption. The Registry further reported that he was licensed in Illinois in 1881; that he was a member of the A.M.A. and director and chief surgeon of the Litchfield Hospital in 1911; and that he died of septicemia due to a needle wound inflicted while doing surgery.

Litchfield Independent, April 4, 1911—

Dr. H. E. Cassel succumbed to blood poisoning at Luther Hospital, St. Paul, April 4 where he was a patient for the past week. The infection was caused by a slight prick on a finger from one of his surgical instruments about three weeks ago. He would have been 51 years old in August."

The burial notes of the Ripley cemetery, Litchfield, show that he was buried there April 7, 1911, and the cause of death given as diabetes.

His obituary in the **News Ledger** of April 6, 1911 reads as follows:

PROMINENT CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

Dr. H. E. Cassel answers death's summons, some two weeks ago, Dr. Cassel of this city, while performing an operation at the Litchfield Hospital, accidentally pricked one of his fingers with one of the instruments he was using. A day or two thereafter, symptons of blood poisoning became evident and he at once went to St. Paul and put himself in the care of Dr. Boeckman. It was at first thought that amputation of the hand would be necessary, but the disease seemed to respond to treatment, and in a few days he was thought to be on the way to speedy recovery. In fact he was planning on returning home this week.

Tuesday he was feeling so much better that his wife and his nurse Miss Gill, left him to go down town for a little shopping. They had been gone from the hospital less than half an hour when he was stricken with heart failure and died in a few moments, Mrs. Cassel was almost prostrated by the shock on her return.

The remains were sent to this city by Tuesday night's train and the funeral will be held from the home at 1 o'clock P. M. tomorrow (April 7, 1911).

Dr. Cassel was a native of Sweden and studied medicine in that country before coming to America, at the age of 23 he came to this country, took a medical course at the State University of Minnesota and was admitted to practice.

He first located at Cokato, then at Dassel and finally came to this city about 15 years ago. From the first, he took a prominent place among the surgeons of the state, and one of his first acts was to establish a hospital in this city.

Afterward he became a stockholder and one of the leading surgeons in the Litchfield Hospital. He was in his fifty-first year, at the time of his death, and by his demise this part of the state loses a most prominent man in his profession, and this community one of it's most valued citizens.

He was a member of the Masonic orders up to a high degree and also a member of the Order of Elks. The funeral will be under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity of this city; and the lodge of Cokato, of which he had retained his original membership, is expected to be here to participate in the funeral ceremonies.

DR. WARREN B. ROBB

About May 1, 1889, Dr. Robb entered his professional card in the Litchfield papers. He carried the title M.D. and had his office over W. W. Johnson's drug store. He had previously practiced at Long Branch, Minnesota. He was listed in the Official Registry of Physicians of Minnesota as follows: "License No. 816—W. B. Robb—R - 2-22-1884—graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1883." His address at the time he received his certificate was Litchfield, but he was a member of the Ramsey county Medical Society October 27, 1884. He joined the M.M.A. in 1885. He was on the registry of St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, in 1885. Polk's Medical Directory lists him in St. Paul in 1886 but not in 1890.

Just when he left Litchfield and moved to Grove City, I am unable to ascertain. He signed death certificates in the county in every year consecutively from and including 1891 through 1897 from Grove City. A few notes of his attendance to patients are seen in the Grove City items in the later '90's and a note of February 11, 1897: "Dr. Robb of Grove City was in our town yesterday, and he says the road from here to the other town is Out-O-Sight most of the time." He was listed in Grove City in 1898 and 1900.

About that time, according to recollection of a friend of mine from Grove City, be became ill and they "took him way." His wife was from St. Paul, and they were married before coming to Meeker county. He was a big gruff fellow with red hair and whiskers and of a very aristocratic appearance; was a member of the Episcopalian church; and had a fair practice.

Another "Old Settler" tells me that the doctor was in Grove City as late as 1900, that about that time they took him to the University Hospital, that he had been acting queer, and that they found he had a brain tumor, and that he "died of it."

DR. JAMES W. ROBERTSON

Probably our most illustrious and successful physician to date was Dr. Robertson. He is stated to have come to Litchfield in 1891, but I find a notation in the **Independent** of May 7, 1889, wherein he cared for a patient.

He was born at Perrysburg, Ohio, July 26, 1852. He was educated in public and high schools of that city and the University of Michigan. He then entered the Detroit Medical College and graduated with the class of 1877. He then took special courses at Vienna, Edinburgh, and Paris and returned to become lecturer on laryngology in the Detroit Medical College and professor of obstetrics in the Michigan Medical College for the next ten years. He was on the staff of St. Mary's, Harper, St. Luke's, and Providence Hospitals there. He also served as chief surgeon of the Lake Shore Railway for several years.

When he located in Litchfield, he was a member of the A.M.A. and became a member of the Minnesota Medical Association of which he was elected president in 1911. He was an early member and secretary of the Crow River Medical Society and served as Litchfield's Great Northern Railway surgeon for years. He was a fellow of the American Laryngological Association and had been secretary of the Detroit Academy of Medicine and the Detroit Medical Library Association. He was mayor of Litchfield and a member of the Board of Health and the Board of Education for us.

He read several papers before the Crow River Valley Medical Society on advances in medical practice of that time. The subject matter was perinephritic abscess in one, and he brought out the occasion of pain when a galvanic current was passed over the abscess, and described operating a case under local novocaine anesthesia.

Another case of excision of the rectum for cancer was described in which Drs. Archibald and Bissel assisted him.

He discussed the use of glycerinated vaccine for smallpox vaccinations and smallpox itself which was timely then (1901) as an epidemic was in progress throughout the state.

Dr. Robertson developed a large and lucrative practice at once on arrival in Litchfield. He was married previously, September 17, 1872, to Miss Ella J. Phelps. His wife and the

doctor himself had relatives among the early pioneers of Litchfield and this may have helped to induce him to come to Litchfield. He erected a large brick building of two stories about seventy-five feet square in conjunction with a pharmacist named Lundemo about 1912, and had a spacious suite of offices on the second floor, with a terraza floored operating room and hospital rooms. An elevator was also provided and all modern facilities of the day.

Dr. Robertson was a large strong, ruddy complexioned sandy haired, blue eyed typical Scot. He was terrificially energetic, fair minded and possessed of a "quick temper." He was much respected by his colleagues and a sterling worker for the advance of medical facilities for the community. In the new Meeker County Memorial Hospital, a room has been furnished in his name, with a suitable plaque on the door by Dr. George W. Sherwood of Kimball, Minnesota.

Dr. Robertson had three sons—Archibald W., William, and Carl T.—all of whom became physicians, Archie and William returning and practicing in the original building until their early and untimely deaths by coronary diseases and Carl practicing as Captain in the Navy as an E.E.N.T. specialist until his death at an early age from the same cause. Four grandsons are living and carrying on the Robertson traditions.

Dr. James W. Robertson died August 13, 1913, following an operation for ruptured appendix and was buried in Ripley cemetery, Litchfield, Minnesota, August 15, 1913.

DR. GEORGE E. SHERWOOD

Born February 14, 1872, Dr. George E. Sherwood, Regular, practices his profession in Kimball, Minnesota. He has been there since October 15, 1900.

Dr. Sherwood's parents were George W. Sherwood and Adeline Hard. They came to St. Paul in 1855. George Sherwood the father was widely known for his trotting horses bred at Sheldon, Iowa. Dr. Sherwood's grandfather was William Sherwood, a sea captain in the American Navy during the War of 1812. His grandmother was Jane Bogardus, a descendent of Annese Jans Bogardus, a Hollander who owned a farm on Manhattan Island where historic Trinity Church now stands.

Dr. Sherwood graduated from the St. Paul High School in 1890 and from the University of Minnesota Medical School with honors in 1894 and received his Minnesota license July 10, 1894. He was one of the first interns at St.

Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. In the fall of that year he located at Dassel, Minnesota. He was ambitious and enjoyed a lucrative practice.

In 1898 he purchased a two-story brick building with full basement and installed an early type x-ray machine, one of the first in the county. He added other equipment, employed two nurses and had hospital rooms; and while his major cases were operated in larger hospitals, this might well be called one of the first hospitals in Meeker county, for anesthesia and after care were available.

On January 12 of 1898 Dr. Sherwood was married to Miss Mary E. Milton of Howard Lake, Minnesota. Mrs. Sherwood died of cerebral malacia the past year (1955). To this union were born three daughters—Jane (Mrs. Dr. Orville Nelson, E.E.N.T.), St. Petersburg, Florida; Helen; Mrs. Ed Lax (husband deceased) and Ruth, (Mrs. Kenneth Lewis, Detroit, Michigan). A son George died of pneumonia in childhood.

While in Dassel he was elected president of the Council and was one of the Charter Members of the Crow River Medical Society. He was a member of the Dassel Board of Education and belonged to the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, and was active in prohibition circles. He is an ardent nimrod, amateur photographer, gardener, and has for years been interested in purebred Guernsey cattle on his several farms.

He has consistently been a member of the A.M.A., the M.M.A., and the Stearns-Benton Counties Societies, being three times president of the latter. He is a past president of the Northern Minnesota Medical Association. He is at present a member of the Christian Church, Masonic Lodge, and Eastern Star of Kimball and has been president of the State Bank of Kimball.

In 1928 he attended the International Dairy Congress in London on the appointment of President Coolidge, and at that time visited nine European countries. He revisited Vienna in 1930 for post graduate work. He took an air tour of South America visiting seven countries in 1949 and has been perennially in Mexico City and St. Petersburg, Florida, for the past ten winters. The past year he again made a pleasure tour of Europe and at present is again in Florida and Mexico. He has taken extensive motion pictures on these tours which have been greatly enjoyed at medical meetings and throughout his community.

His practice extends well into our county and Stearns county, and he is a member of the staffs of the Meeker County Memorial and St. Cloud hospitals.

Dr. Sherwood is a high principled, industrious, congenial fellow, ever ready to help a good cause and enjoys the utmost respect and admiration of his fellow doctors and the people of his community.

In 1944 he received the medal for 50 years of practice from the Minnesota Medical Association together with its well deserved accolades.

He is a linguist of no mean ability, understanding the Swedish and Norwegian terms, speaking French, speaking and reading German well, and being really fluent in Spanish. He is tall, erect, lean and well preserved, enjoying life as much as always.

DR. FRANK M. ARCHIBALD

Dr. Frank M. Archibald, Regular, Atwater, Minnesota, apparently came to Atwater for at least part time about 1900, for we find that he read a paper, "Diseases of the Tonsils and Their Treatment," before the Crow River Valley Medical Association at Dassel February 6, 1900. His signature also appeared on a death report in 1898.

His practice extended well into the western portion of Meeker county, and he was a dynamic force in the local progress of medicine. He was known to be ever ready to respond when his services were required. Standing about six feet and weighing in excess of three hundred pounds and inately kind to man and animal, he was affectionately known throughout Kandiyohi and Meeker counties at this time and became in 1906 Mahnomen's first physician, remaining there until his death on March 3, 1936, from cerebral hemorrhage and a fractured hip suffered sixteen days before.

Born December 6, 1865 at Lindenwood, Ogle county, Illinois, he attended local schools and the prep. in Dixon, Illinois. He graduated from the Medical College of the University of Illinois in 1893, and married Miss Josephine W. Baily who died in 1927. A son, Frank, lived in Fargo, North Dakota, and a daughter, Adelaide, in Mahnomen. Further details may be found in Kandiyohi county's medical history.

DR. GUSTAV C. VIBRANCE

Apparently Dr. Vibrance came to Watkins about 1898, as a death certificate filed in the court house that year bears his signature.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota, year not known, and was licensed in Minnesota April 10, 1900, Certificate No. 1148. His card lists him as deceased but does not say when or where. Apparently he was not a member of the Minnesota Medical Association.

I was advised by Dr. Sherwood that Dr. Vibrance had relatives in Minneapolis and that he was one of the first doctors in Watkins. He states that he died about 1902, but whether before or after he left Watkins, Dr. Sherwood did not know.

Mr. N. H. Ley of Watkins stated that he had two daughters, Vioka, married to Lou May in Duluth, and Lillian, married to a Nelson in Minneapolis. Mrs. May did not answer correspondence, and a Nelson in Minneapolis seems futile to search. He further states that he came to Watkins in about 1903 and died at age 40 in 1905 at Watkins.

He was listed in Polks Medical Directory as August Vibrance in Watkins in 1898 and may have been doing "locum tenens" work before finishing his college work.

* * *

The following men signed death certificates or practiced in Meeker county a short time or were mentioned in news items:

DR. HOOVER of Paynesville treated a patient with an infected hand in Manannah in 1884.

DR. ROLLIN CUTTS, Professor of Surgery at the University of Minnesota later, gave the high school class prophecy at graduation in Litchfield High School in 1885. (Son of Senator Charles E. Cutts, elder brother of Dr. G. A. C. Cutts).

DR. HILLSON has "leased the Cochran (or Morris) residence and will carry on his medical practice here again this season."

"DR. CARTER of Minneapolis was in Dassel last week paying his monthly visit. He has good business in his chosen calling."—1888.

"DR. WAKEFIELD was in Litchfield examining applicants for pension together with Dr. Bissel."—August 20, 1889. (Dr. Kee Wakefield, Hutchinson).

DR. BOECKMAN of St. Paul signed death reports 1889 and 1890.

DR. LEWIS R. FERNALD of Bellingham and Appleton attended patients in Litchfield. In 1890 he retained Minnesota License No. 165 dated October 15, 1883; and he was a graduate of Albany Medical College in 1875.

"DR. J. W. SHAW, M.D., pulled stakes from Grove City last Friday and went to Minneapolis where he intends to spend the winter, and Grove City is again without a doctor and the 'bachelor's hall' is not complete. He stayed only a little more than a month."—1885.

DR. W. SMALLEY of Hector attended a sick person in Cosmos in 1889 and also signed a death certifcate in 1896.

April 14, 1887: "DR. W. E. AUBIN, formerly of Perham has located in this city, Litchfield and for the present offices at the Howard House. After May 1st he expects to occupy rooms over Wakefield Store. He is a pleasant gentleman and comes well recommended as a physician."

The **Perham Bulletin** states the same and that he was at one time a well-to-do physician there and had been there five years. Owing to a sickness in his family, he went to Litchfield. He came from Canada originally.

DR. CHALMERS (or CALMER) of Paynesville signed death reports in 1894 and 1896.

DR. W. A. BURNS of Hector signed a death certificate in 1896.

DR. G. P. FERRELL of Paynesville did likewise in 1896 and 1899.

DR. PROESCH of Fair Haven also signed death reports in 1889, 1891, and 1898 and was mentioned in Watkins and Eden Valley at that time.

DR. W. H. ABORN was mentioned in Eden Valley at about 1890.

DR. MONKER, Fairhaven, previously mentioned in 1892 and 1893.

DR. SAGELIN of Hutchinson signed Meeker county death report in 1893; DR. ARNOLD, Cold Spring, did the same for 1896; and DR. FRANCIS ILLSTRUP, Cokato, likewise for 1894 and 1895. DR. L. S. SCHROEDER of Cedar Mills signed a death report for 1896.

DR. RIDGWAY of Annandale signed reports in 1896 and was mentioned as locating in Eden Valley May 9, 1899, but evidently did not remain long. He also was a member of the 50 Years of Practice Club. The following is the obituary of Alfred Miller Ridgway appearing in the June, 1952, issue of **Minnesota Medicine.**

> "Dr. Alfred M. Ridgway, a practicing physician in Annandale for over sixty years, passed away May 19, 1952, at the age of ninety.
>
> "Dr. Ridgway was born in Columbus, Wisconsin, January 29, 1863. In 1882 he came to Minneapolis and was employed in a drug store until 1887, when he entered the medical department of the University of Minnesota. He was graduated in 1890 and was the only intern at the Minneapolis City Hospital before opening an office at Annandale in July, 1890. He took postgraduate study in Chicago in 1895 and again in 1900.
>
> "Dr. Ridgway helped organize the Wright County Medical Society some sixty years ago. He was a member of the Minnesota State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He was also a member of the American Association of Railroad Surgeons and had been a surgeon for the Soo

Line since December, 1909. He was a charter member of the I.O.O.F. and Rebecca lodges of Annandale and a member of the A.F. and A.M. lodge. He served in the Village Council and was mayor of Annandale in previous years.

"In July, 1940, Dr. Ridgway's many friends took part in a celebration of fifty years of practice by the physician. Many of those who participated were of the 3,500 brought into the world by Dr. Ridgway.

"On September 20, 1892, Dr. Ridgway married Miss Nola Ponsford. She survives him. Although they had no children, they provided a home for many young girls and helped them complete their education." It was my privilege to know this energetic, alert, ruddy faced man with his clipped gray mustachio, and ever bubbling good humor, his job was ever well done.

DR. CROKE of Hutchinson signed a death certificate in our county in 1897.

A DR. A. ANDERSON in August of 1898 inserted a professional card in a Litchfield paper as a "Scandinavian Physician and Surgeon." It further stated that Dr. Anderson of Minneapolis had made arrangements to locate here in another column.

I cannot believe that this is the Dr. Andrew E. Anderson of Minneapolis who helped establish the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, but it is possible. No further mention is made in Litchfield.

DR. GEORGE S. PUTNEY of Paynesville also signed a death report in Meeker county in 1899.

DR. CHARLES BOLSTA practiced a few months in Grove City. He was licensed in Minnesota in 1895 and graduated from Rush in the same year. He was reported in Ortonville from 1895 until as late as 1950. He was described as being "heavy set and dark" by a Grove City resident.

DR. NELS A. BIORN practiced a short time in Grove City in 1899. He was a student at Hamline College at the time (Minnesota Medical College) and in 1901 graduated and settled in Ada, Minnesota. His son, Rev. Richard Biorn, lives at Northfield.

DR. HAND (probably DR. WILLIAM R. HAND) of St. Paul attended patients in consultation with Dr. Chapman and signed death certificates in this county in 1889 and 1899. He graduated (if this be the one) from Cincinnatti Physicians and Surgeons College in 1877, was licensed in Minnesota February 18, 1884, License No. 811. He was born in Hawley, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1856. He practiced in Herman, Minnesota; Kasota, and eventually Elbow Lake, where he remained until his retirement in 1936 after 60 years of practice.

He died May, 1939, at the age of 82 years in Fargo, North Dakota, from "myocarditis, gallstones and common duct obstruction."

DR. WILLIAM E. TRYON, Dassel, "Located in our village in 1900 and was here three years, then left for Minneapolis where he had a good practice till his death in that city." Dr. Tryon was a graduate of the Bennett Eclectic Medical College of 1885. He held Minnesota License No. 1036 dated April 20, 1885. He was listed in 1890, Minneapolis; and 1895 and 1898, Austin; 1903 and 1905, Dassel; and 1909, Minneapolis. He died March 5, 1927, at the age of 70 of coronary sclerosis and diabetes.

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We must include a druggist, VIRGIL H. HARRIS, born in Newark, Ohio, May 14, 1840, and died in Litchfield October 18, 1910. He served in the 111th Ohio Regiment in the Civil War for three years. He settled in Litchfield in 1870. He was the author of a book. **"A Trip Through Hell—An Epic of the Unseen.—**(A story of the Civil War). He was probate judge for many years; and his son, E. V. Harris, succeeded to the same bench for one term. Inasmuch as some of the stories concerning Dr. Cassel eminated from E. V. Harris personally to me, I cannot but feel that our good judge and pharmacist, Virgil H. Harris, and Dr. Henry E. Cassel spent some convivial evenings in his drug store.

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HOSPITALS

As previously mentioned, Dr. Sherwood had a few hospital rooms in Dassel in 1898.

The first authentic hospital was operated by a Mrs. Leroy, R.N. in Litchfield, Minnesota, January 1, 1897. Pressures by Drs. Cassel, Chapman, and Robertson with their local confreres were no doubt instrumental in building up this establishment. This continued to be in active use for ten years after the turn of the century, when, as previously noted, Dr. Robertson built his own hospital. Apparently, at about this time, Drs. Cassel and Chapman continued to operate their hospital as the Litchfield Hospital under the auspices of Miss Gill. Later with the assistance of Dr. K. A. Danielson and on the death of Dr. Cassel a reorganization was accomplished and a new Litchfield hospital was built and operated under the supervision of Mrs. Schmitz. Dr. Robertson's sons rejoined the new organization and in a few years Miss M. Madge Bellingham succeeded to the supervision of the new Litchfield Hospital. This served the community under her leadership long and well until the present Hill Burton Hospital came into being in 1952. During these years, the Litchfield Hospital conducted an accredited school for R.N.'s, was never "in the red" and was able to donate a site for the new Meeker County Memorial Hospital, as well as turning over to them a cash credit of no mean proportions.

At present we find Meeker county adjusting itself to the changing trends in medical practice—No longer are the long sleigh rides and blowing blizzards threatening the doctor's and their driver's lives but their traditional pride requires them to call at the homes of their patients when and as their services are essential. The roads are passable by high powered cars the year around but in turn, this driving accessability contributes to their night calls for accident cases.

Specialists will arrive by airplane when necessary, and the latest antibiotics and scientific measures including participation in a Red Cross blood bank are available at the drop of a hat. It is hoped that our county will continue to be ever in the forefront in medicine as in the building of Minnesota by our pioneer confreres.

IN SUMMARY:

These are the men and women we record as being active in the pioneer days of medical practice in Meeker county. May we draw our lessons and profit thereby.—